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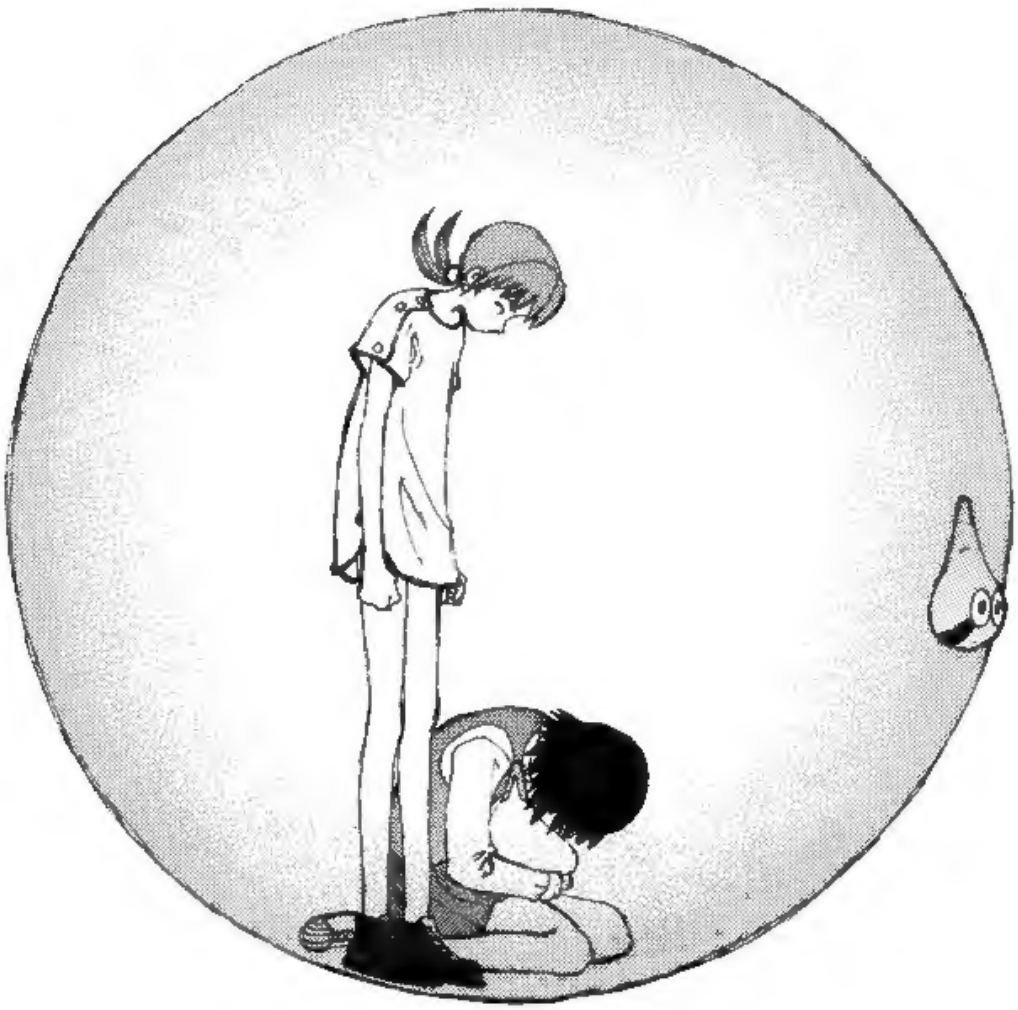

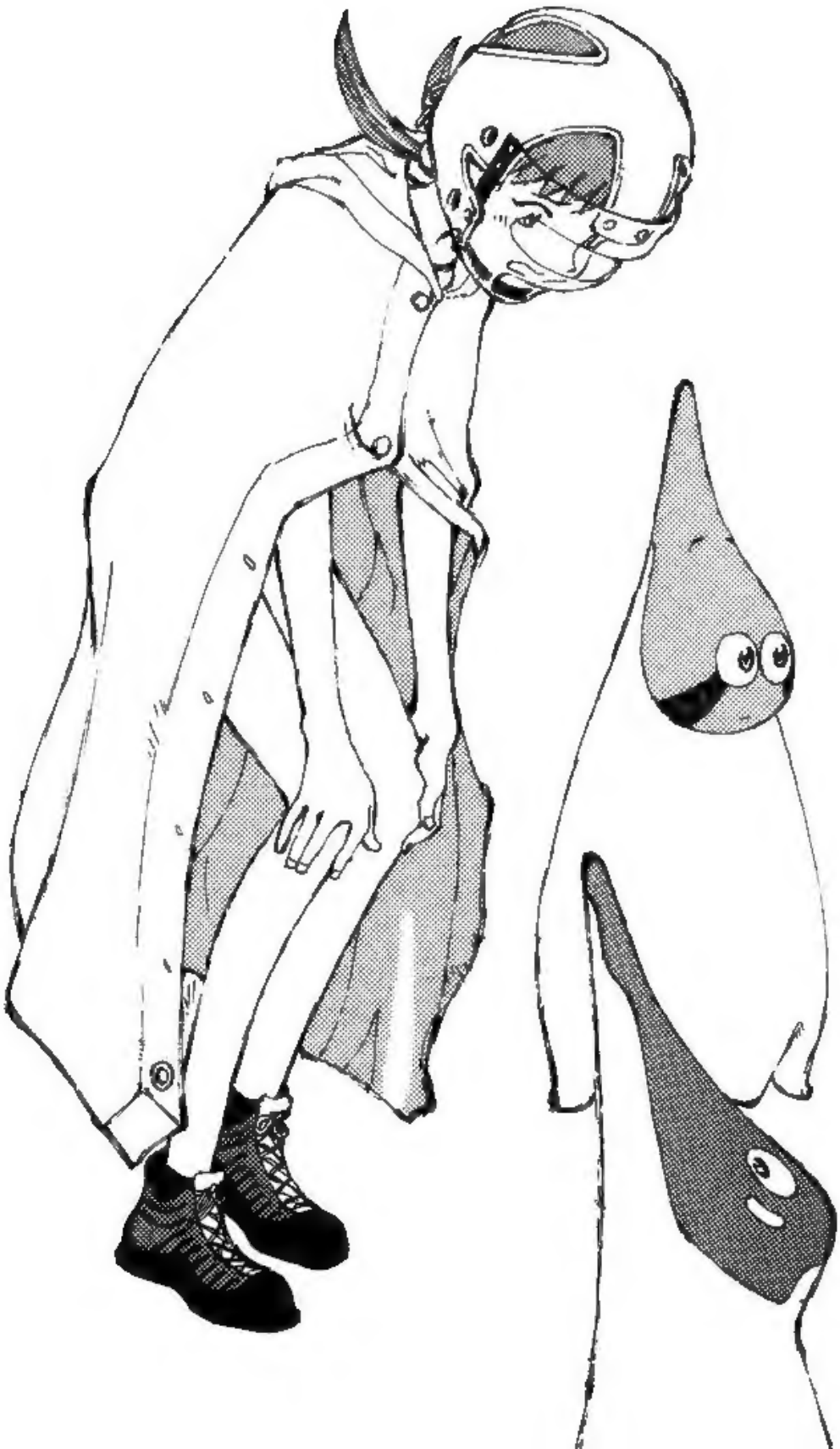

shadow star

彼なる星珠たる子

VICTIM'S EYES, ASSAILANT'S HANDS

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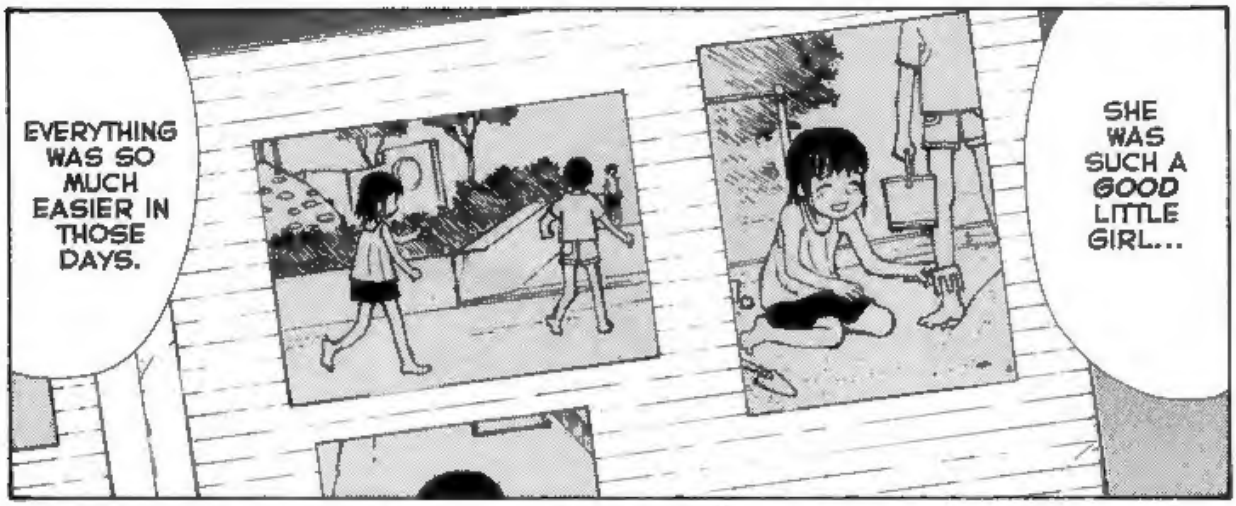
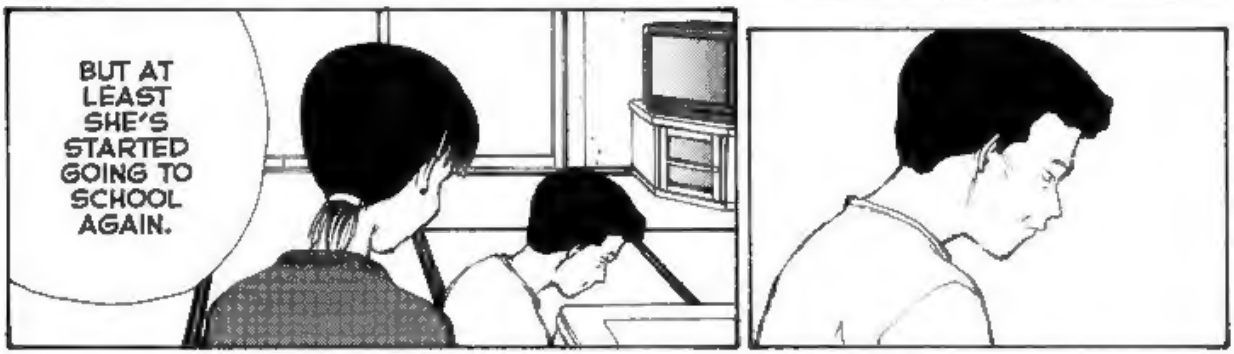
MY EYES ARE THE EYES OF A VICTIM; MY HANDS ARE THE HANDS OF AN ASSAILANT

DEAR...? YOU'D BETTER START GETTING THE RESTAURANT READY FOR DINNER.
IN A MINUTE.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

WELL...


EVERYTHING WAS SO MUCH EASIER IN THOSE DAYS.
SHE WAS SUCH A GOOD LITTLE GIRL...


BUT AT LEAST SHE'S STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL AGAIN.

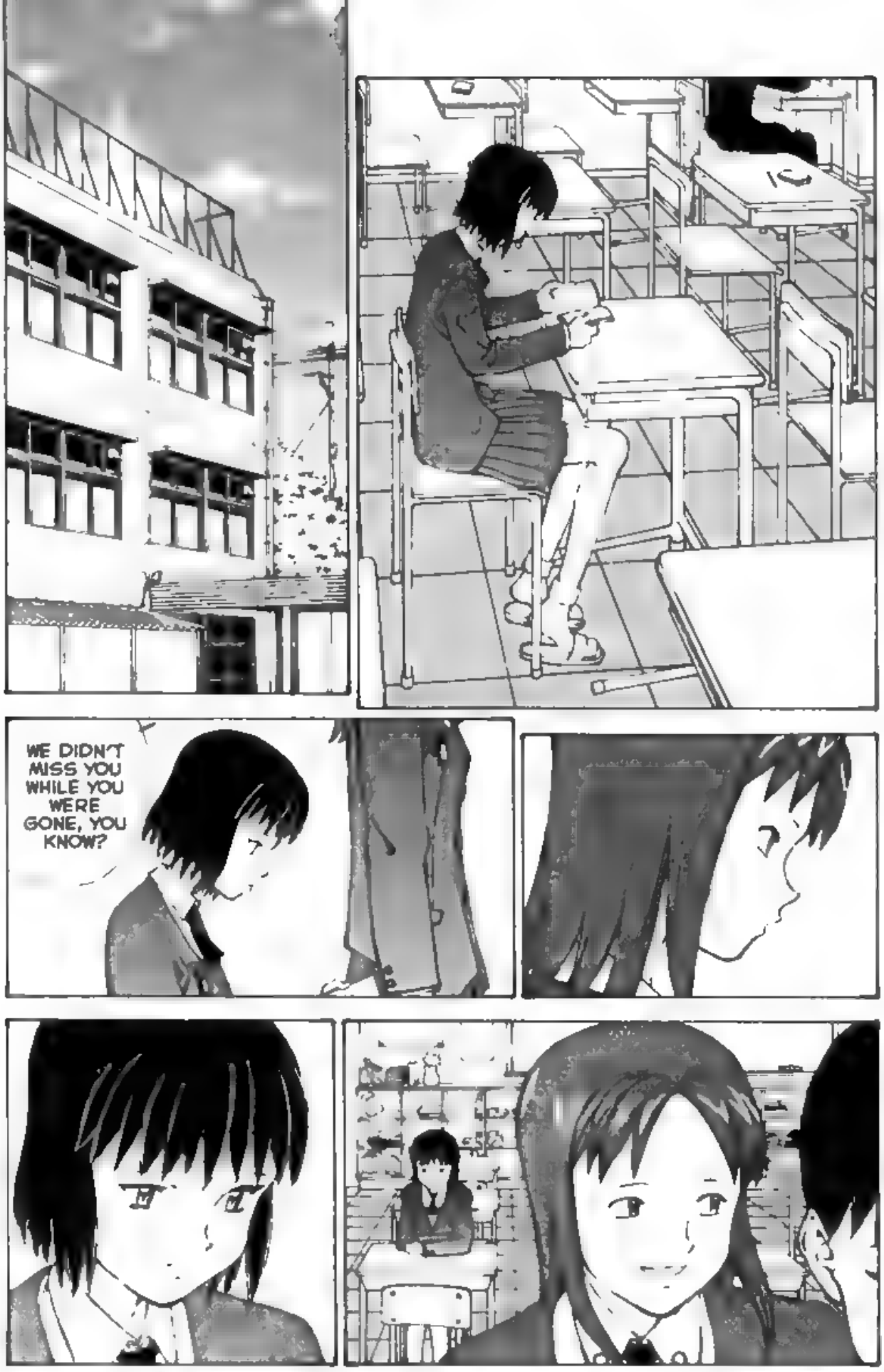
"AND SHE SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL.
"EVER SINCE SHIINA AND THAT SUDO BOY CAME BY..."

I GUESS SO.

YOU KNOW... BACK THEN...
SHE REALLY WAS A DADDY'S GIRL... WASN'T SHE?

HEY, DADDY!
HEY, DON'T I LOOK CUTE?
I'M A BIG GIRL NOW, AREN'T I? HUH, DADDY?
PICK ME UP, DADDY!
PLEASE, DADDY?!
YEAH...
SHE WAS A "DADDY'S GIRL."

WHY DID SHE... .....
WAS IT ME? DID I...DO SOMETHING WRONG AS A FATHER?
M-MAYBE YOU WERE...
...TOO "CLOSE" TO HER.
WHA--?


WE DIDN'T MISS YOU WHILE YOU WERE GONE, YOU KNOW?

WHY...
DO THOSE GIRLS...
ALWAYS...
PICK ON...
AKIRA ...?
KTOK
I DON'T... GET IT.
KTOK
...
...
IT'S NOT NICE!
KRAK
WELL, SHE IS KIND OF WEIRD, GUY!

IN NINTH GRADE --!
THAK
AW, CRAP!
KTOK
BACK IN NINTH GRADE, TOSHI TRIED TO ASK HER OUT, BUT...
MY TURN! HAND IT OVER!
FIGURES! HE'S A TOTAL HORN DOG!
BLECCHI
ANYWAY, AKIRA'S RESPONSE WAS PRETTY WEIRD.

SHE JUST ACTED LIKE...
...HE DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING.
KTOK
BUT REALLY--
WHOA!
TOK
HYAAHH!
KRAK
THAK
HEY...?
FOUL!
YOU TOUCHED THE TABLE!
I CAN'T PLAY AND TALK ABOUT THIS STUFF.

HERE, YOUR TURN.
OKEY-DOKE.
PHEW
"BUT REALLY"... WHAT?
BUT *REALLY*...
...IN HER CASE, IT WAS PROBABLY MORE LIKE SHE *COULDN'T* TALK TO HIM.
JUST FREAKED OUT, Y'KNOW?
BUT *THOSE* GIRLS GOT PISSED OFF 'CAUSE THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS BEING SNOTTY.
THAT'S HOW IT ALL BEGAN.
THAT'S *IT?* YOU'RE KIDDING!
I DUNNO, THOUGH.
ACTUALLY, THE REASON PROBABLY DOESN'T MATTER.
HEY, THAT BUNCH IS ALWAYS CHASING AFTER TOSHI, RIGHT? THEY WERE JUST JEALOUS.
YEAH, WELL.... MAYBE.

I FIGURE THEY WERE JUST LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE.
KTOK
I MEAN, ANYBODY OUTSIDE THAT NASTY LITTLE CLIQUE OF THEIRS IS THE ENEMY, RIGHT?
AW, MAN... I HATE THAT SHIT.
AND... .....
AND WHAT?
LET'S FACE IT... AKIRA'S THE SORT OF KID YOU WANT TO PICK ON.
HEY, HEY, HEY!
BE NICE!
I'M JUST KIDDING.
SORT OF
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, SATORU.
LIKE IT'S NOT TOTALLY OBVIOUS.
KTOK
ANY-WAY...
...WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO HER IS REALLY ON THE WIMPY SIDE.

"YOU KNOW HIBIKI SHIMURA?
"BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHE GOT *TOTALLY* PICKED ON BY ANOTHER GANG OF GIRLS."
NO WAY!
HER?
YEAH. SO I HEARD.
IT WAS REALLY NASTY SHIT, TOO.
YOU EVER HEAR OF...
..."WORM JUICE"...?

HIROKO, YOU GOT A *HUNDRED* IN MATH AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
AREN'T YOU A *CLEVER* LITTLE BITCH!
IT...IT WAS NINETY-SEVEN.
NOT A *HUNDRED!*
NINETY-SEVEN, A HUNDRED... WHATEVER.
SAME DIFF TO *US*, RIGHT?
YEAH! THEY GRADE ON A CURVE.
AND THAT MEANS...
...WE PLAY THE *PUNISHMENT GAME!!*

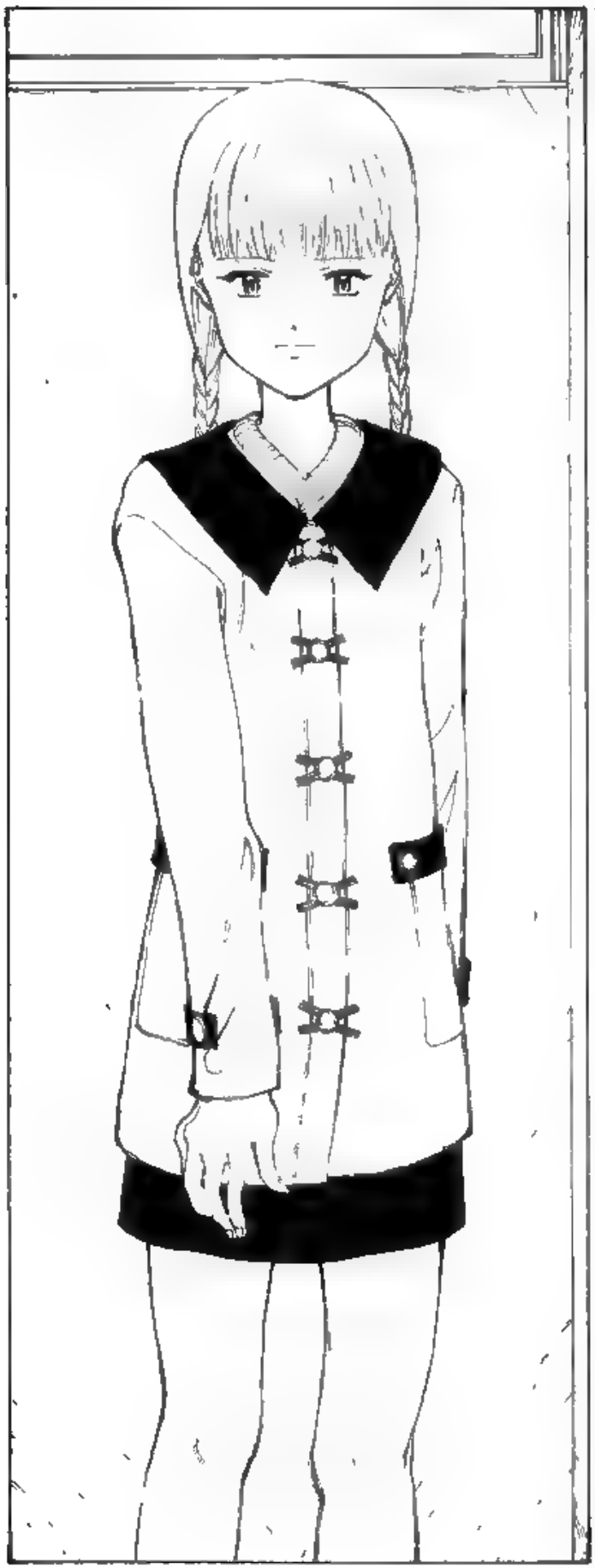
♪ TA-DAH! ♫
LOOKIE, LOOKIE... WORM JUICE FOR YOU!
B-BUT... I EVEN ANSWERED SOME WRONG ON PURPOSE!
ON PURPOSE? WOW!
THEN IT REALLY WAS 100%!
BETTER HURRY AND DRINK IT BEFORE WE FIND MORE!
HEY, I'M TRYING, BUT...
UM... I HEARD FROM MY GRANDMA THAT IN THE OLD DAYS THEY...THEY WERE USED FOR SOME KINDA MEDICINE.

COOL! THAT'S GREAT.
ISN'T IT, HIROKO?
B-BUT... IT'S NOT FAIR! I DID WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO! I MISSED SOME QUESTIONS!!
GIMME A BREAK! THREE PERCENT?! BIG DEAL!
FOUND ANOTHER ONE!
FINALLY! WHAT A PAIN!
I'D DRINK IT UP QUICK IF I WERE YOU.
ONE LITTLE, TWO LITTLE, THREE LITTLE WORMIES!
SPLSH
EWW..

SO...
DID SHE DRINK IT?
WELL, YEAH, SHE DID.
TO BE MORE EXACT...
...I HEARD THEY *FORCED HER.*
UGH!
"THEY JUST PINNED HER DOWN AND POURED IT DOWN HER THROAT.
"THEY SAID IT WAS A MESS, 'CAUSE SHE SCREAMED AND CRIED AND STUFF."

I'M SURPRISED, HIROKO! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *LITTLE MISS PERFECT*, BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN DRINK SOME *WORM JUICE?*
DON'T TELL ME WE HAVE TO...
...*HELP* YOU DRINK ...?

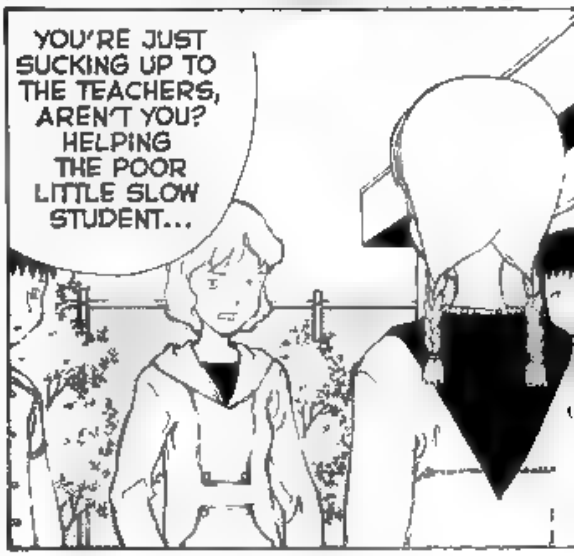
GULP
D-DRANK IT...
WH... WHOA. SHE REALLY...
LOOKS LIKE HIROKO KAIZUKA GETS ANOTHER PERFECT SCORE!
MY, WHAT A GOOD GIRL.
SKRASSH



OOH, LOOK AT THAT FACE!

YOU'RE *DISSING* US, AREN'T YOU?

YEAH! YOU THINK WE'RE ALL *STUPID!*
EVEN YOUR PAL SHIINA!
YOU JUST *ACT* LIKE HER FRIEND!


YOU'RE JUST SUCKING UP TO THE TEACHERS, AREN'T YOU? HELPING THE POOR LITTLE SLOW STUDENT...

I KNOW... TO GET INTO THAT BANDA ACADEMY SCHOOL, RIGHT?
YOU HAVE TO ACT LIKE A GOOD GIRL, DON'T YOU?
GOOD LUCK WITH THE ENTRANCE EXAMS, DEAR HIROKO.
I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU.
'CAUSE IF YOU FAIL, IT'S ANOTHER THREE YEARS TOGETHER...
...AND WE SURE DON'T WANT THAT.
C... C'MON... LET'S GO.
HUH...?
YOU FINISHED ALREADY?
BYE-BYE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT TEST!
THEN WE'LL HAVE EVEN *MORE* FUN TOGETHER!

RRGH!
HGGK
:KOFF:
HNGHH!
:HAHH:
:KOFF:

=HAHH=
=HAHH=
=HAHH=
=HAHH...=
NNG...!
HLLGGH!
GHHK!

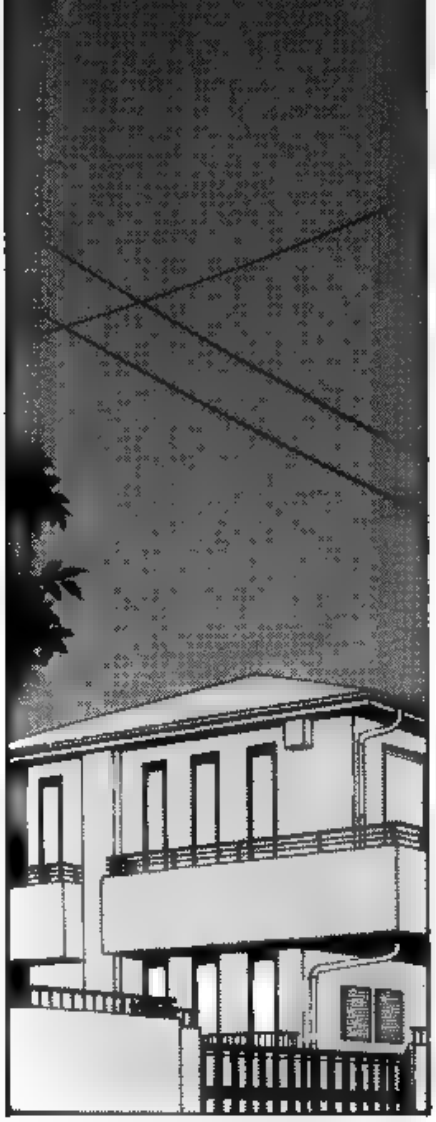
HEY, IT'S HIROKO KAIZUKA.
YOU KNOW...
YOU NEVER SEE HER WITH ANY OF THE OTHER GIRLS.
SHIINA ...?
SHIINA DOESN'T COUNT.
SHE'S SPECIAL.
I MEAN, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE SHE DOESN'T LIKE?
OH, YEAH--
THERE'S YOU.
OUCH!

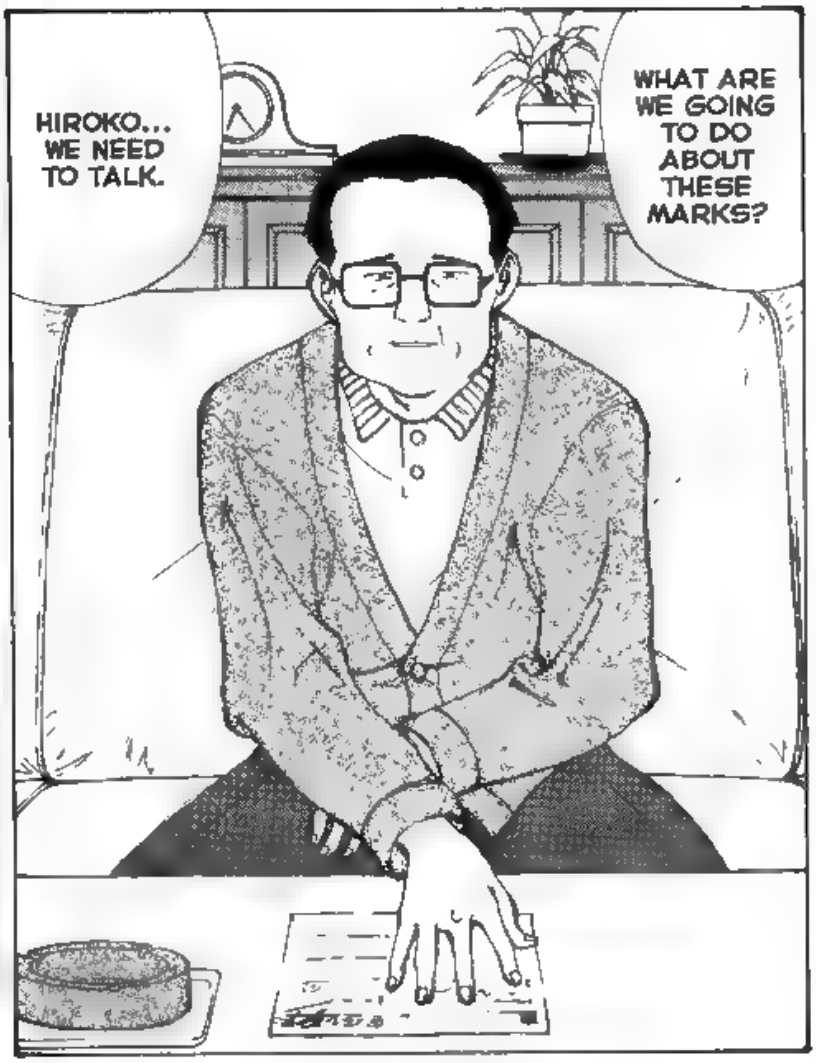
AAH, DAUGHTERS ARE *SUCH* A PLEASURE!
ANYTHING'S AN IMPROVEMENT ON THAT MONKEY OF A KID BROTHER OF MINE.
OH, TAKAYA... YOU'RE HOME.
I'M BACK, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A MONKEY?
YO!

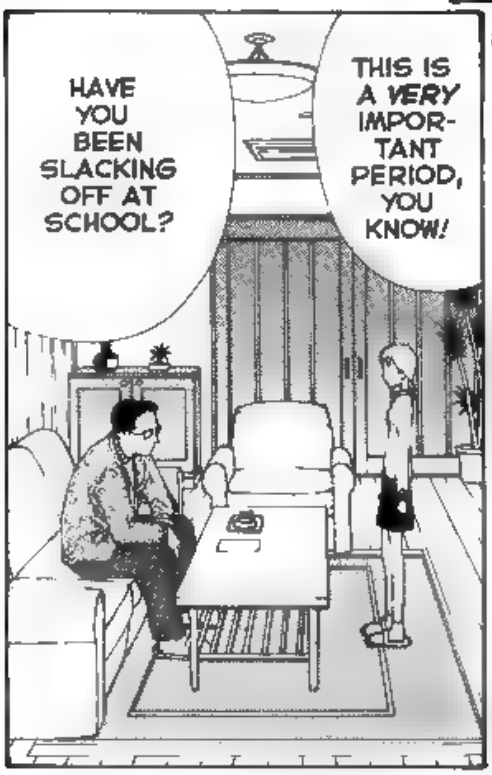
H-HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SHE BROUGHT OVER THE RENT.
WELL, TAKE OFF UPSTAIRS TO YOUR ROOM AND DON'T COME DOWN, OKAY?
CRNCH
HUH? WHY?
SHE'S TRYING ON MY OLD CLOTHES. SO...NO BOYS ALLOWED.
ALL YOU'VE GOT ARE ABOUT A MILLION SKIRTS, KASUMI.
THEY WON'T WORK ON A TOMBOY LIKE HER.
OH, YEAH? FROM THE LOOK YOU GAVE HER, I'D SAY THEY "WORK" JUST FINE! ♡
WHA--?! I--!
GIMME A BREAK!!

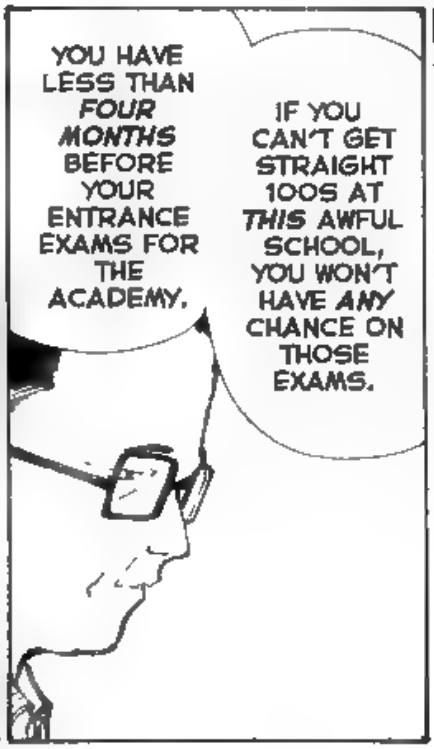
I KNOW THEY'RE SECOND HAND...
...BUT IT'S A PITY TO JUST THROW THEM AWAY.
NO, THAT'S OKAY, REALLY! I MEAN, THEY'RE STILL LIKE NEW.
ARE YOU *REALLY* SURE I CAN HAVE THEM...?
WELL, THEY DON'T FIT ANY OF US GIRLS ANYMORE...THINK TAKAYA'D WEAR THEM...?
HA HA HA!
YUCK!
ANYWAY, I WANTED TO DO *SOMETHING* FOR YOU. YOUR FATHER'S BEEN HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME...
...AND YOU'VE BEEN *DOWN*, TOO. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU, SHIINA.
SO *BUCK UP*, SWEETIE!
SMAK
AH ...!
=KOFF=
I *WILL*, MRS. MIZUSHIMA. THANKS!

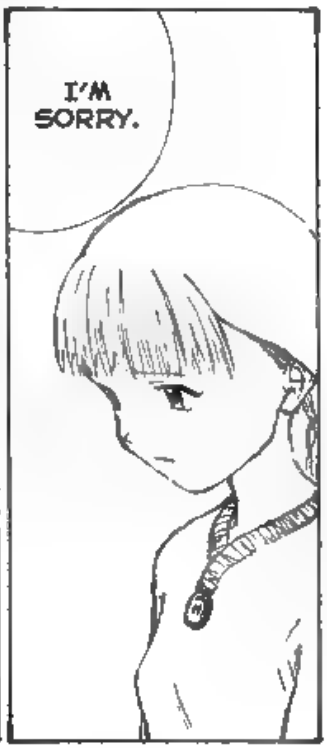
OH, HI, SHIINA! YOU LOOK CUTE!
HI, TAMAMI! THANKS.
YOU STAYING FOR DINNER ...?
NO, I HAVE TO GO COOK FOR DAD AND ME... YOU KNOW.
C'MON... TAKAYA WOULD LOVE IT, I BET!
SPEAKING OF THE DEVIL... YOUR MID-TERM MATH EXAMS CAME BACK TODAY, RIGHT?
COUGH THEM UP!
AI-YI-YI... LOOK AT THESE MARKS!
YEAH, WELL... THEY'RE BETTER THAN SHIINA'S I BET..
52%...?!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
RIGHT, SHIINA...?
UM... ACTUALLY, HE'S RIGHT.
OH, SHIINA...!




HIROKO... WE NEED TO TALK.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THESE MARKS?


HAVE YOU BEEN SLACKING OFF AT SCHOOL?
THIS IS A *VERY* IMPORTANT PERIOD, YOU KNOW!


YOU HAVE LESS THAN *FOUR MONTHS* BEFORE YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR THE ACADEMY.
IF YOU CAN'T GET STRAIGHT 100S AT *THIS* AWFUL SCHOOL, YOU WON'T HAVE *ANY* CHANCE ON THOSE EXAMS.


I'M SORRY.

IF WE'D HAD *ANY* IDEA JUST HOW POOR THIS SCHOOL WAS, WE WOULD HAVE MOVED SO YOU COULD ATTEND A BETTER ONE. BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
ALSO... I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN SEEING THAT GIRL...
I FORGET HER NAME.
THAT *FAILURE.*
DON'T SPEND TIME WITH HER ANYMORE.
SHE'S CLEARLY A BAD INFLU-ENCE ON YOU.
ALL YOU NEED FROM THAT SCHOOL IS A PERFECT REPORT CARD, NOT "FRIENDS."
THE EDUCATION IS POOR, AND THE CHILDREN ARE LOW-CLASS.
THE *PTA* JUST TOLD ME THE SCHOOL PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH TEACHING THE FULL CURRICULUM THIS YEAR.
JUST LIKE *LAST* YEAR.

UNBELIEV-ABLE...!
UNDER-STAND, HIROKO?
YOU CAN MAKE A BETTER CLASS OF FRIENDS AT PREP SCHOOL.
UM... ABOUT... SHIINA...
I... I... .....
EITHER YOU TELL HER YOURSELF...
...OR I'LL PHONE HER PARENTS FOR YOU.
N-NO! I'LL GET 100% NEXT TIME...
...FOR SURE!
I WILL DO THINGS PERFECTLY NEXT TIME.
I SWEAR I WILL!

THANKS, MRS. MIZUSHIMA!
G'NIGHT...!!
UM... SHIINA?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HANGING OUT HERE, TAKAYA?
WHAT'S UP?
UM... WELL...
THAT SKIRT...

OKAY, OKAY! I GET IT!
LOOK... I KNOW I'M NOT THAT SORT OF--
N...NO... I MEAN... IT LOOKED... PRE... PRETT...
AH...IT LOOKED LIKE *HIROKO* WOULD LOOK PRETTY IN IT!
DON'CHA THINK?!
YOU WAITED HERE TO TELL ME *THAT*...?
UH... WELL...
SHE'S SORT OF...
HIROKO ...?
WHAT ABOUT HER?

SHE'S BEEN SORT OF *STRANGE*, RECENTLY...
...HASN'T SHE?
AW, I DUNNO. MAYBE IT'S JUST ME.
SEE YA.

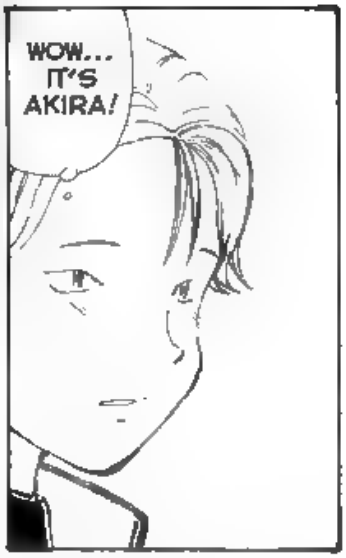
OKAY, NEXT BIG MID-TERM IS TOMORROW. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? SAME AS LAST TIME?
HUH... WASTE OF TIME. THAT DIDN'T WORK ON HER.
SHE DIDN'T GROSS OUT OR ANYTHING.
KTAK
WE'LL STICK *THIS* UP HER...
...AND *KICK* HER IN THE STOMACH.

UM... ARE YOU SERI-OUS?!
Y-YEAH... I MEAN... GET REAL!
THAT SNOTTY LITTLE BITCH NEEDS US TO TEACH HER A REAL LESSON!
SHE THINKS SHE'S SUCH HOT SHIT!
ANYWAY, THIS TIME I BET SHE'LL DO IT.
AND AS LONG AS SHE DOES WHAT WE SAY...
...NOTHING HAPPENS. RIGHT?
OKAY, LET'S WRITE UP HER ORDERS... THIS TIME SHE HAS TO GET LESS THAN 70%!!
HA, HA... FOR HER THAT'LL BE LIKE GETTING A DEATH SENTENCE!

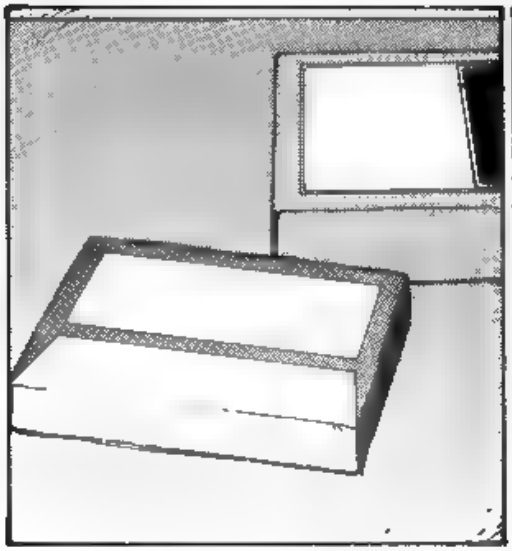
BYE-BYE!
SEE YA!
AAGH... ANOTHER BIG TEST TOMOR-ROW...
I'M SO DE-PRESSED...
HEY, HIROKO! SEE YA TOMOR-ROW, OKAY?

BOY...I BET HIROKO'S NEVER FELT DEPRESSED ABOUT TESTS, HUH?

OH, YEAH...I NEED TO STOP BY THE DRUG STORE.
LESSEE.. SOAP. TOOTHPASTE..


WOW... IT'S AKIRA!

WHAT'S SHE DOING OVER IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD? ISN'T THEIR HOUSE THE *OTHER* DIRECTION...?

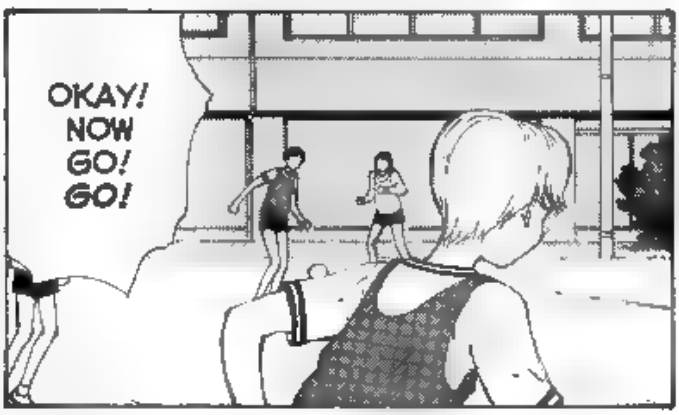


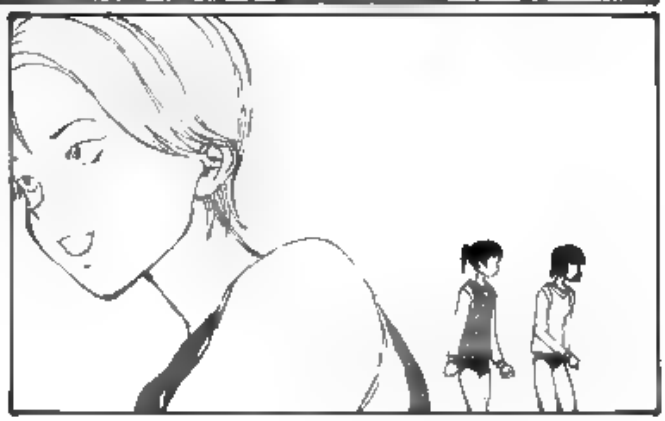
PAIN KILLER ...?

UH... HI.
I... I'LL...
I'LL C-COME BACK LATER!
FUNNY... YOU KNOW HER?

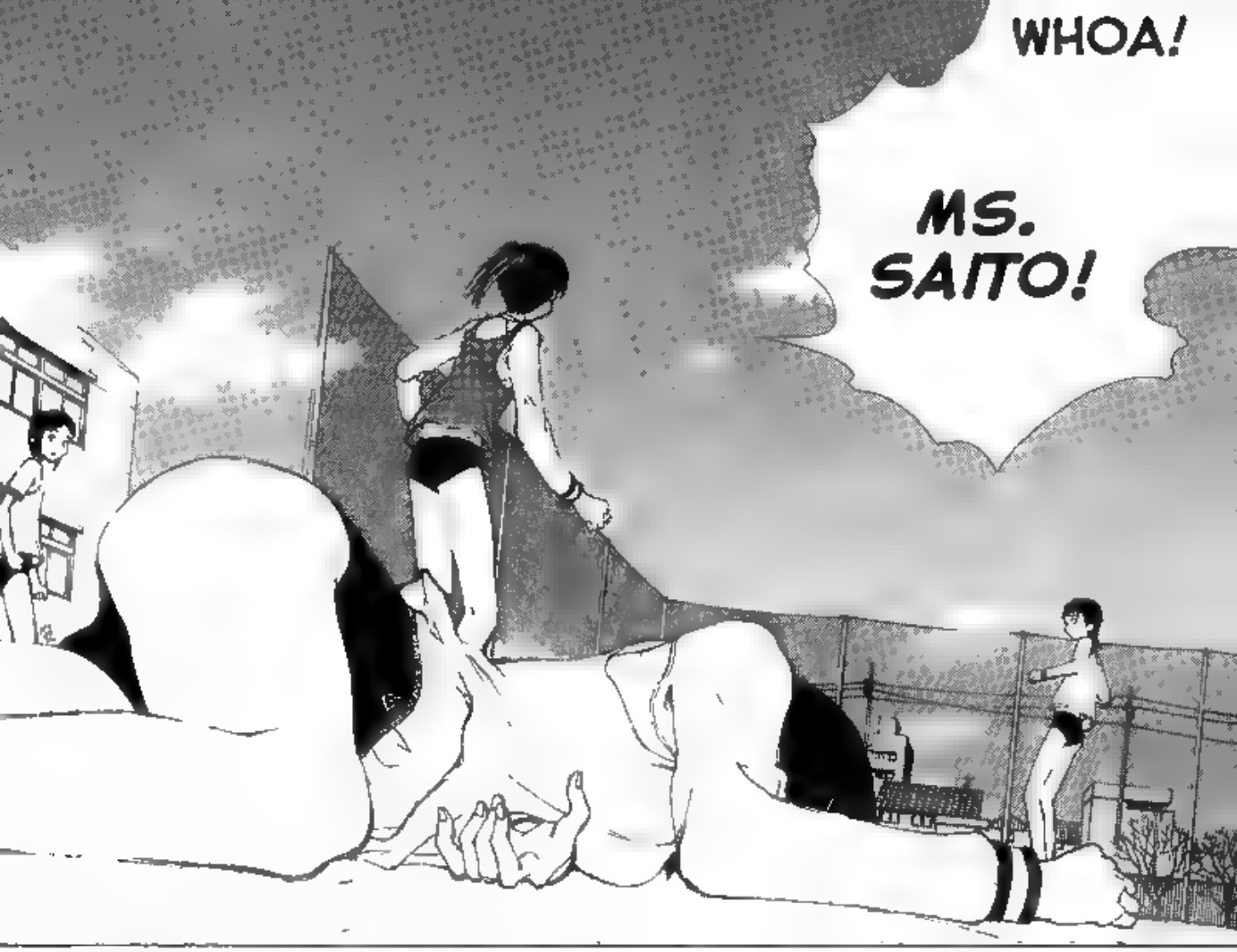
WELL, YEAH. FROM SCHOOL.
AH, HA... THEN IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF YOU.
HUH?
GEEZ... DOES SHE HATE ME THAT MUCH...?
OH, PLEASE! I DON'T *THINK* SO!
YOU YOUNG BOYS DON'T UNDER-STAND GIRLS AT *ALL*, DO YOU?

THAP


OKAY!
NOW
GO!
GO!



HEY, AKIRA... YOU LOOK REALLY LOUSY. YOU OKAY?
I... I'M FINE.
HUH! IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING GOOD, YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED FOR A SPARE.
I MEAN, WHAT'S THE POINT? YOU JUST GET IN THE WAY, ANYHOW.
THOK
AKIRA!! IT'S YOURS! GET IT, GET IT!
RUN!!
HFFF
HAHH


WHOA!
MS. SAITO!

SHE NEEDS TO BE TAKEN TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE. WHO ELSE IS HERE FROM CLASS B?

WELL, UM...I AM, S-BUT...

BUT *WHAT*, MISS ANDO...?
BUT I DON'T WANNA TOUCH HER.
SHE'S, LIKE... *WEIRD* AND *CREEPY!*

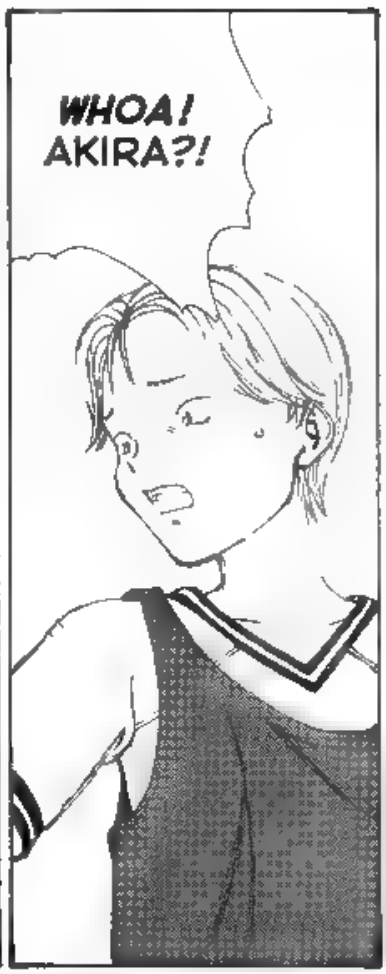
HEY, ISHIDA!
HERE'S YOUR BIG CHANCE... RIDE TO THE RESCUE OF YOUR SWEET PRINCESS!
GROW UP, WILLYA? YOU GUYS ARE SO *IMMATURE!*
I'LL TAKE HER, MS. SAITO. IS THAT OKAY?
WELL... I GUESS SO.
WHOA! WHAT A *MAN!*
OOH, YEAH! I'M IN *LOVE!*

UH... CAN YOU WALK?
Y... YES.
OKAY... JUST HOLD ON.
IT'S NOT TOO FAR.
HEY, SAKURA! YOU ON THE RAG OR WHAT?!

UM...
.....
COME ON...LET'S JUST GO.
BE CAREFUL OR THEY'LL CATCH YOU "RED-HANDED," LOVER BOY!
HEE, HEE!

MAN, DAMN THAT BITCH SHIMURA .../
I WISH SHE'D DROP DEAD OR SOMETHING.
WOW... AKIRA...
...SURE DOES SMELL NICE.
UH... SAY... AKIRA?
WHAT KIND OF PERFUME ARE YOU USING? IT SURE--

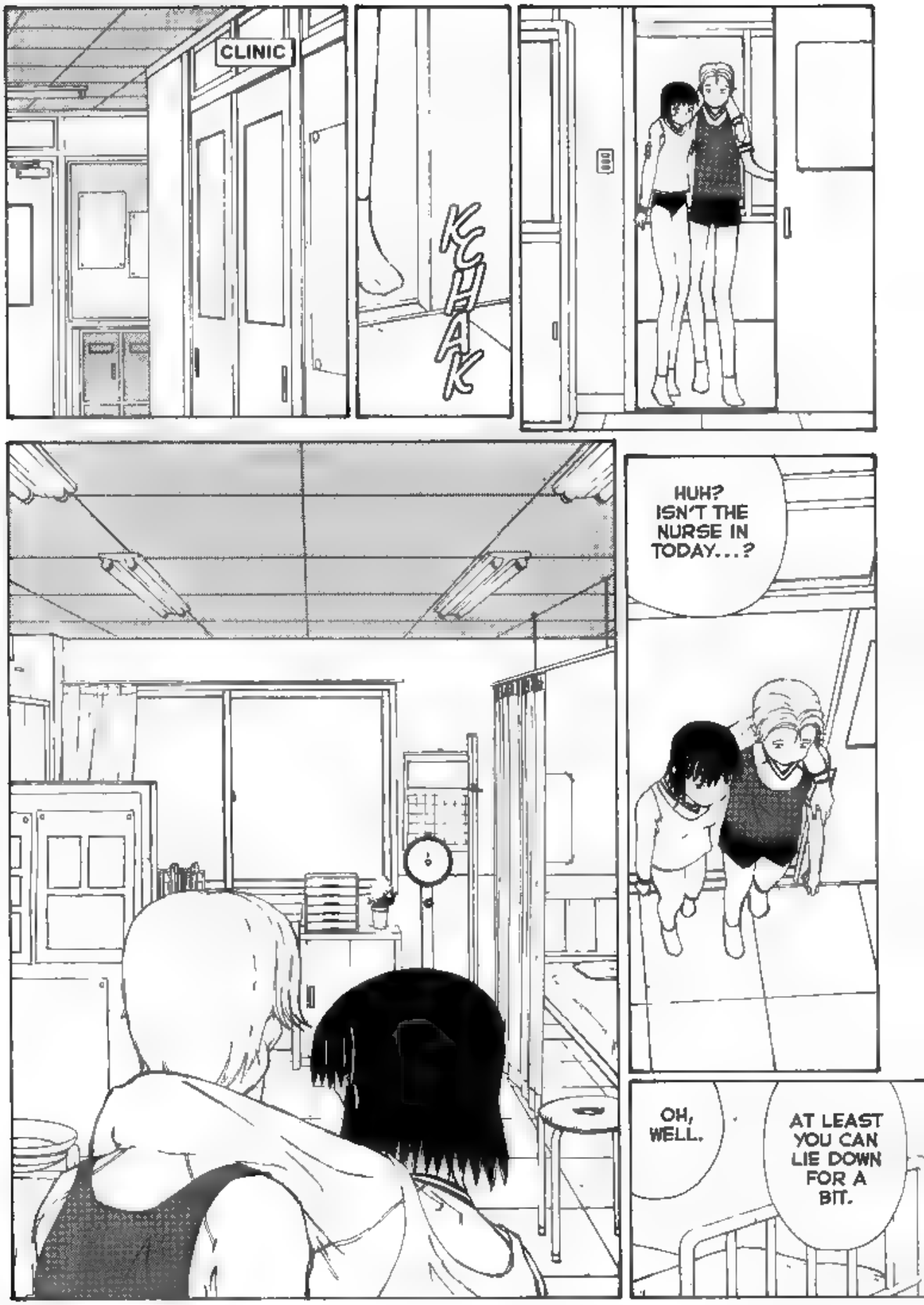
EDD


WHOA!
AKIRA?!

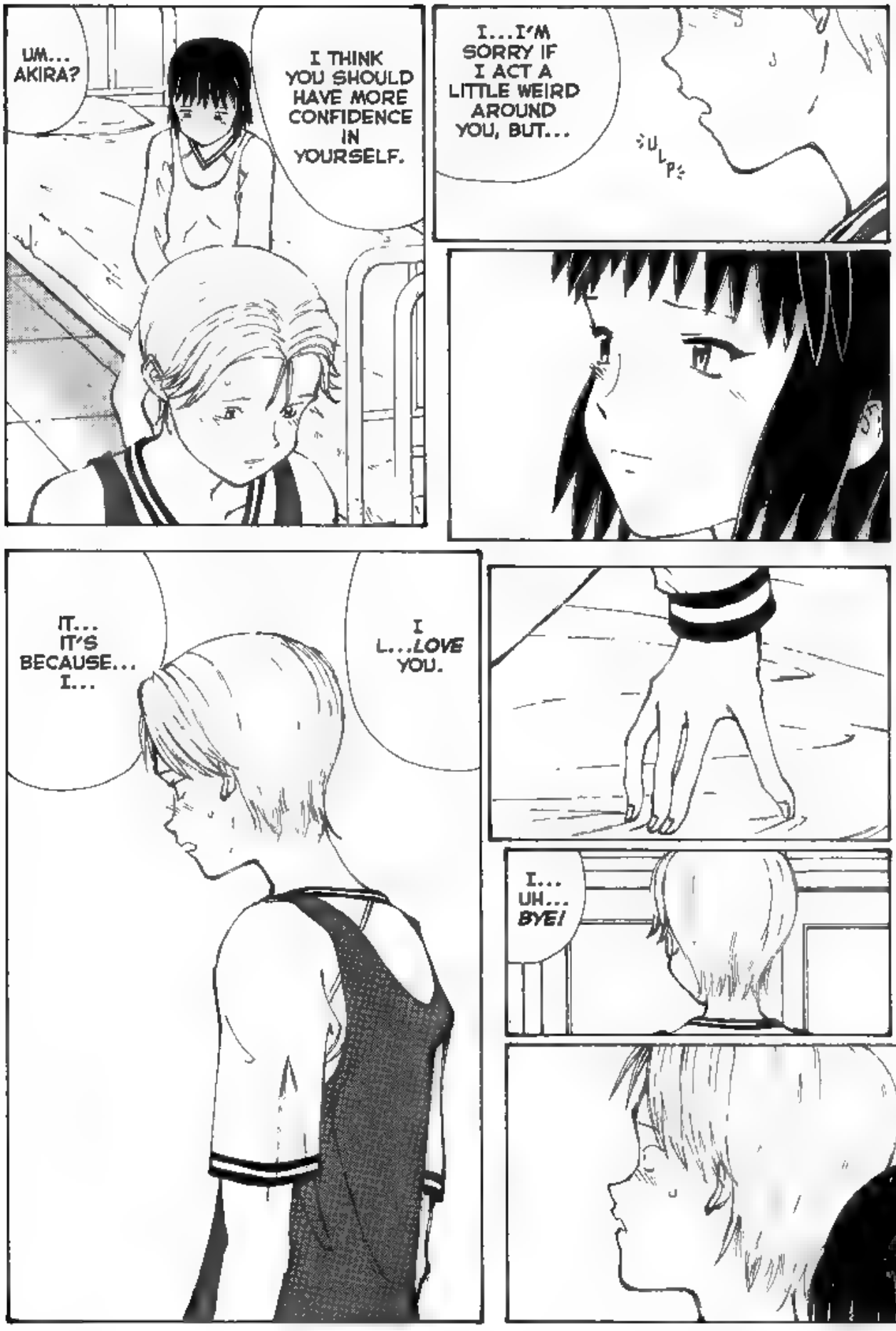
PSHED

N-NO, WAIT!
I...I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!

UM...
I MEAN... UH...
IT JUST...
Y YOU SMELL NICE
S... SORRY.
WE BETTER GET GOING.
WHY AM I APOLOGIZING LIKE THIS...?
CAN YOU STAND UP OKAY...?

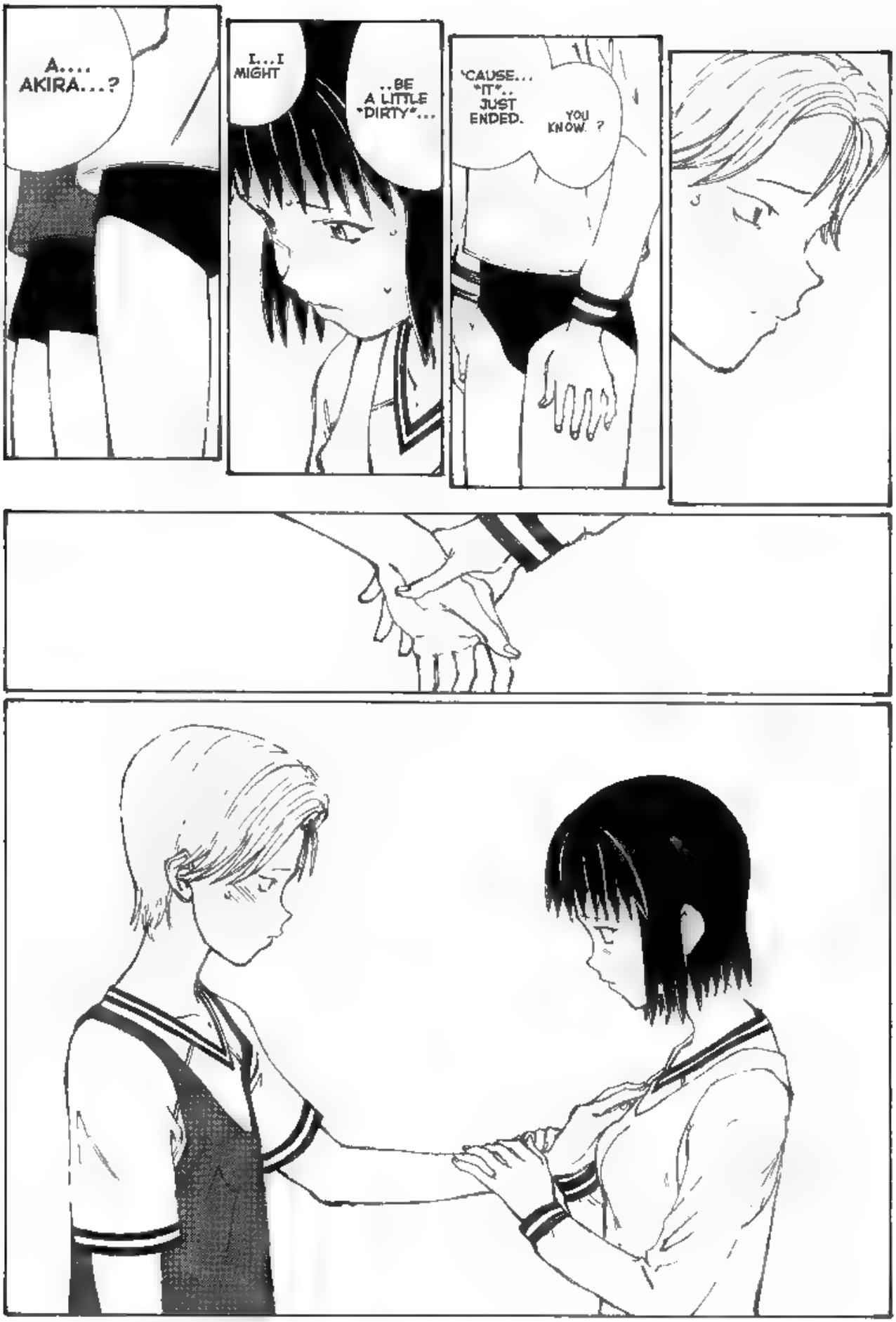

CLINIC
KCHAK
HUH? ISN'T THE NURSE IN TODAY...?
OH, WELL.
AT LEAST YOU CAN LIE DOWN FOR A BIT.

SO, UM...
...GUESS I BETTER HEAD BACK.


UM... AKIRA?
I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.
I...I'M SORRY IF I ACT A LITTLE WEIRD AROUND YOU, BUT...
GULP
IT... IT'S BECAUSE... I...
I L...LOVE YOU.
I... UH... BYE!

AH ...?!
A... AKIRA?
!
UH...
W... WAIT A SEC...

HUH?
M... MAKE LOVE TO ME.
PLEASE ...?


A....
AKIRA...?
I...I
MIGHT
..BE
A LITTLE
"DIRTY"...
'CAUSE...
"IT"..
JUST
ENDED.
YOU
KNOW. ?

YO!!
HERE!
!
:hahh:
:hahh:
MM...
DAMN! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET HER CLOTHES OFF... WHAT...
OH... IT'S OKAY. I'LL T-TAKE THEM OFF MYSELF.
S... SORRY!

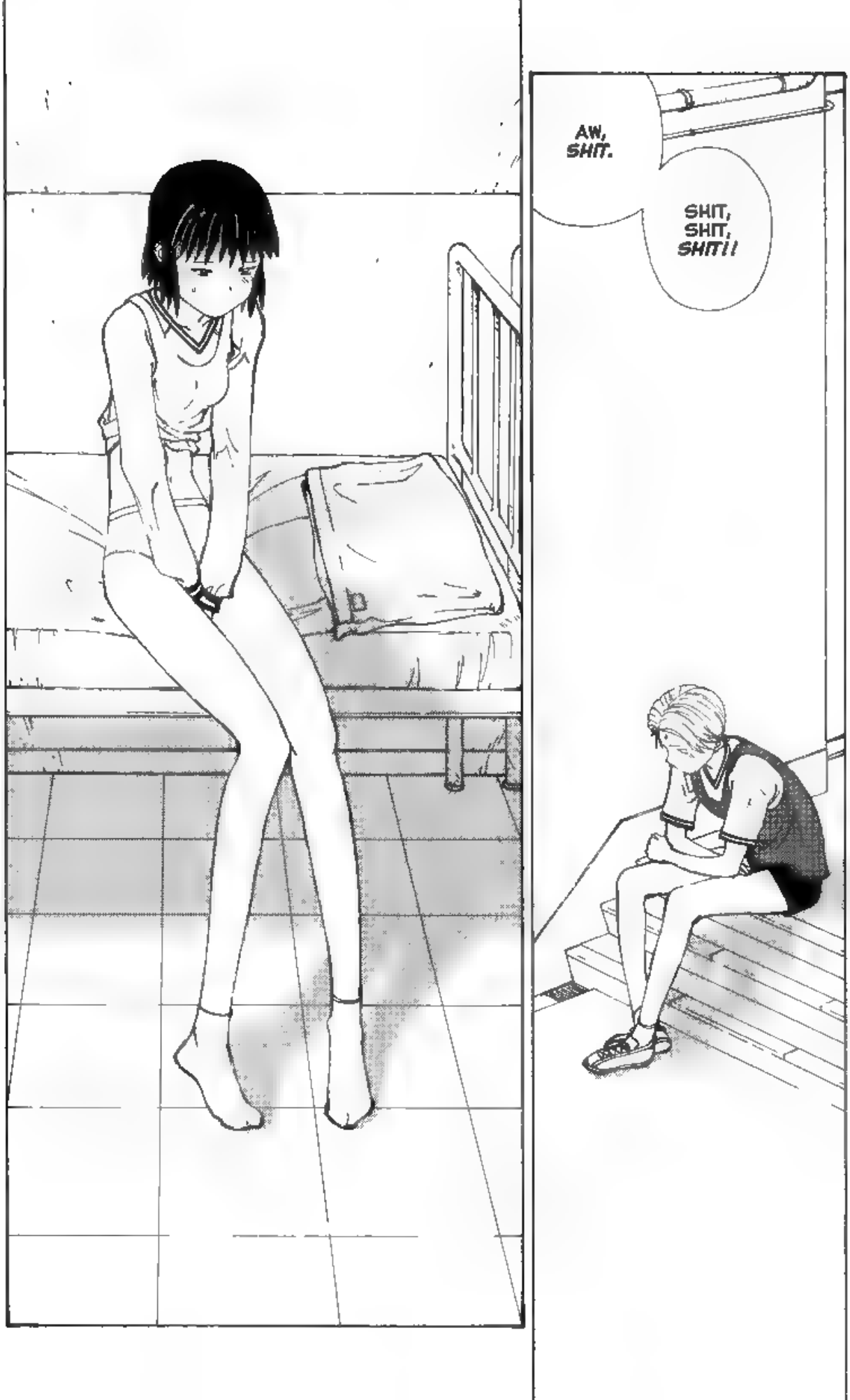
OKAY, THEN... BEGIN!
HEY, SHIINA.
EYES FRONT DURING TESTS!
SORRYYY. !
ANYWAY... HIROKO CALLED IN.
SHE SAID SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL AND COULDN'T MAKE IT.

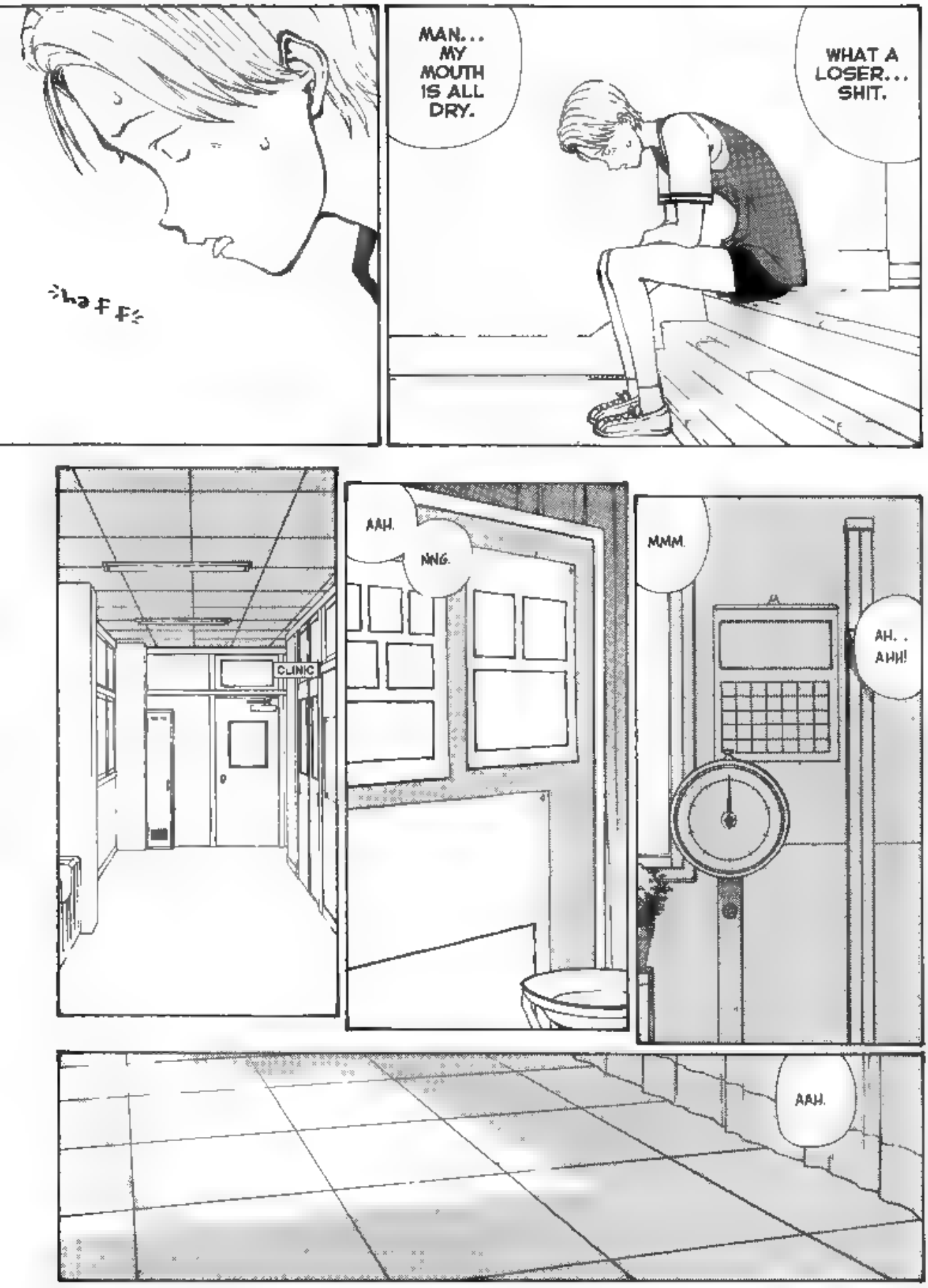
WHOA...
AKIRA...
I...
.....

AW, SHIT!!
I... I'M SORRY, AKIRA!
SHFF
FWHDD
OWW...

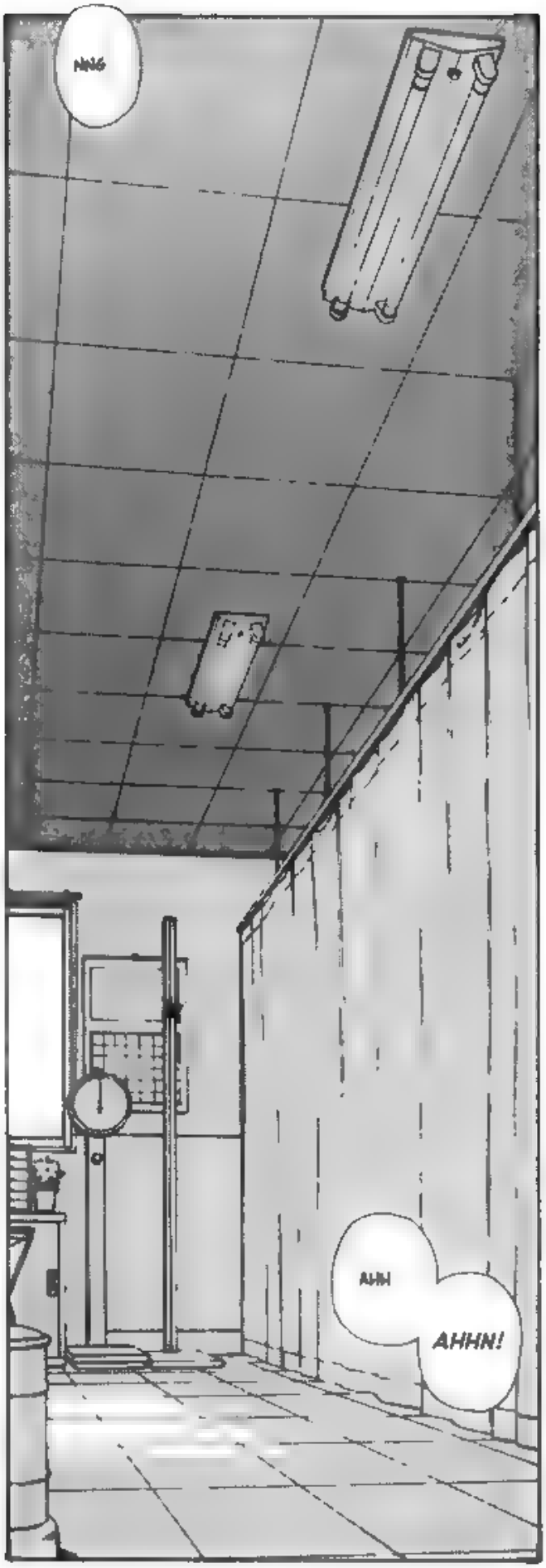
I... I'M SORRY !!
I... JUST CAN'T DO THIS!!
I MEAN... I NEVER DONE IT BEFORE!!
I...I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW!!
UH--
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE AND I'D... BUT...
WHAT IF THE NURSE SHOWS UP?!
AND IF I DON'T GO RIGHT BACK...WHAT IF THAT BITCH SHIMURA SAYS SOMETHING?
I MEAN...
YOU KNOW!
A- AND...
UM... BESIDES... I'M NOT SURE...
...IF I CAN DO IT RIGHT.

I...
....
...I'M REAL SORRY.
BTAM

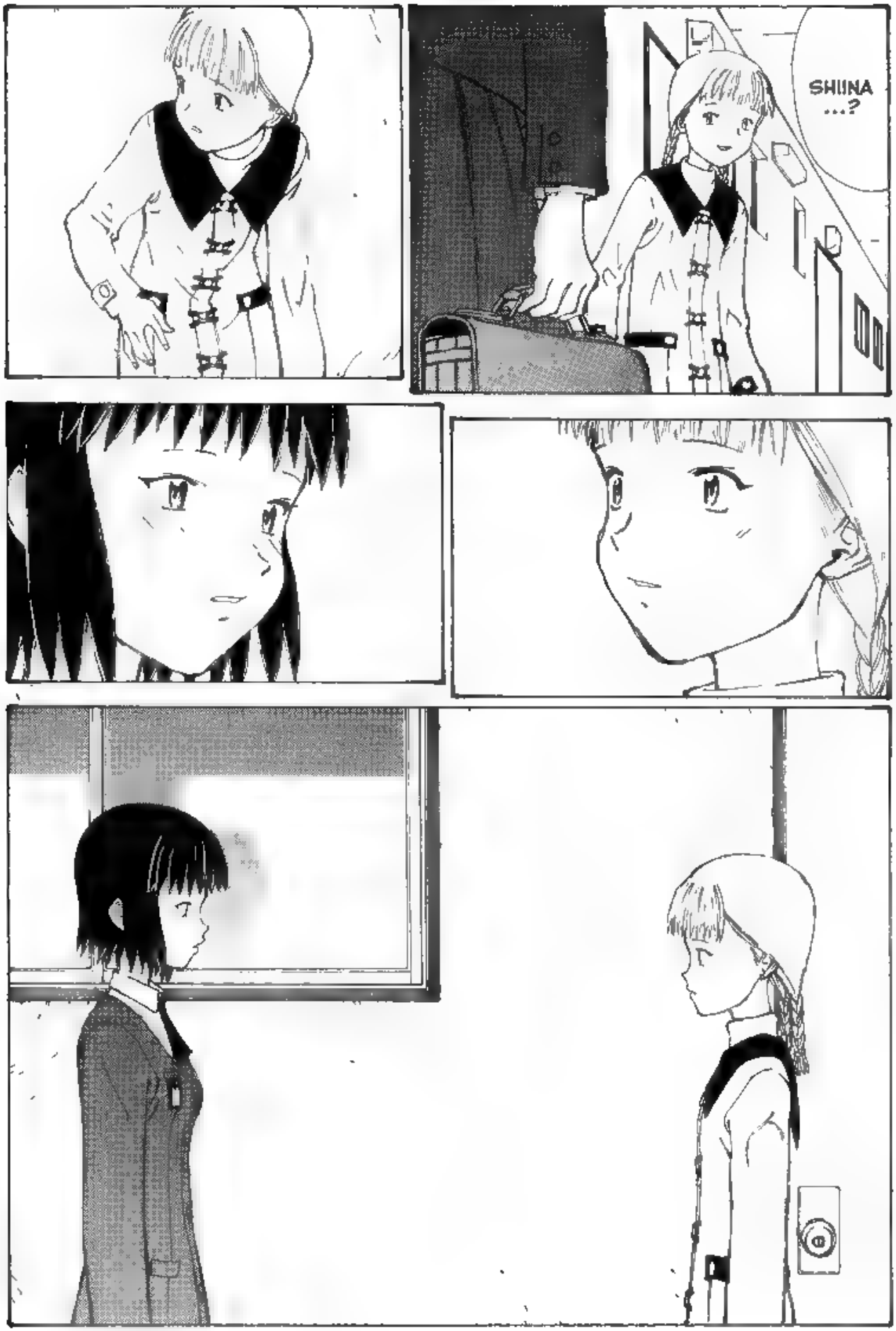

AW, SHIT.
SHIT, SHIT, SHIT!!


MAN... MY MOUTH IS ALL DRY.
WHAT A LOSER... SHIT.
CLINIC
AAH.
NNG.
MMM.
AH.. AHH!
AAH.

YO, SORRY I'M LATE.
COULDN'T FIND THE NURSE
HEY, GUYS! I'M IN!

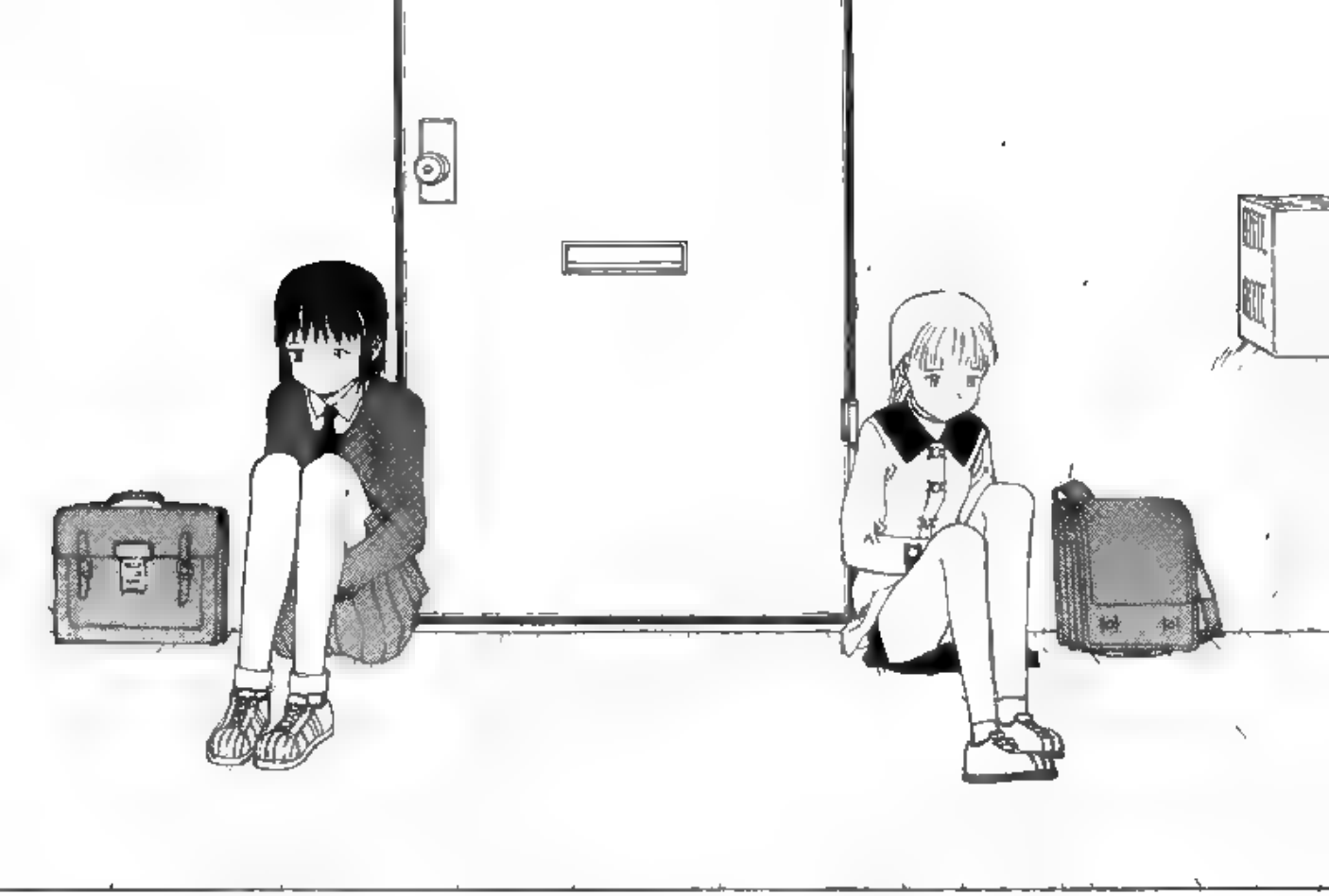

NNG
AHN
AHHN!

I WONDER... IS SCHOOL OVER YET...?
GRGGGLLL
HEH... GUESS WE STILL GET HUNGRY...
...EVEN AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
GEE, I COULD SURE GO FOR SOME OF SHIINA'S COOKING!
HEH, HEH!
KANGG
KANGG
KANGG


SHIINA
...?

AH.../
UM...
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SHIINA ...?

I...I'M WAITING FOR HER, TOO.
WHY DON'T WE...
...WAIT TO-GETHER?
HI...!
I'M HIROKO KAIZUKA... I'M IN SHIINA'S CLASS.
AH... I... I'M...
...AKIRA SAKURA.
I'M...
I'M SHIINA'S... FRIEND.



AKIRA SENPAI*, YOU GO TO THE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE NEXT DISTRICT OVER, RIGHT?
WHERE DID YOU MEET SHIINA?
I MET HER AT A MARTIAL ARTS CLASS.
HA! NO KID-DING!
S... SENPAI?
M. ME?!
UM... WELL... BELIEVE IT OR NOT...
...?

* Term of respect for a student in a higher grade

SHIINA'S SURE A NICE GIRL, ISN'T SHE?
IT'S A LITTLE EMBAR-RASSING TO ADMIT THIS, BUT...
...I THINK SHIINA'S THE ONLY PERSON I CAN CALL MY FRIEND.
ME... ME, TOO.
HEE
HEE
HEE

DO YOU THINK WE'RE KIND OF ALIKE?
YOU KNOW, I SKIPPED SCHOOL TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABSENT BEFORE EXCEPT WHEN I WAS *REALLY* SICK.
G-GEE... THAT'S AMAZING. I...I...
I SKIP SCHOOL *ALL* THE TIME...
SO, UM..
WHY DID YOU SKIP TODAY ...?

I JUST FELT SORT OF... *TIRED.*
I MEAN... AREN'T THERE TIMES WHEN YOU'VE JUST HAD ENOUGH OF *EVERY-THING?*
YOU THINK YOU'RE TRYING REALLY HARD...
...BUT YOU CAN'T DO *ANYTHING* RIGHT.
YOU THINK YOU'RE TRYING REALLY HARD...
...BUT *NOBODY* ACCEPTS YOU.

I...
I'VE...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WELL...
...THE PROBLEM IS IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
YOUR FAULT?
DON'T YOU THINK... IT'S THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU THAT ARE BAD?
I THINK...

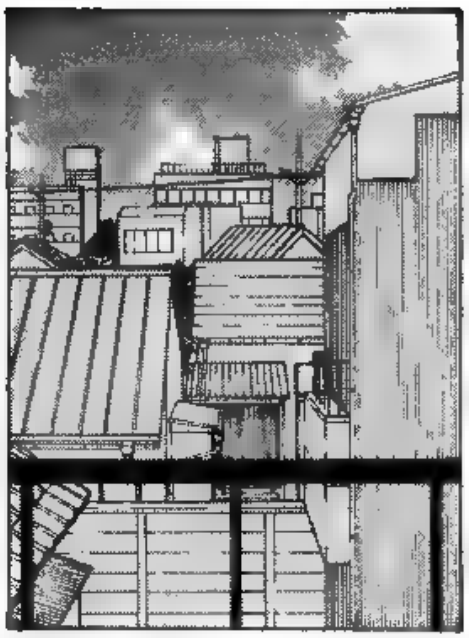
...IT'S THE WHOLE WORLD.
IT'S THE WORLD'S FAULT
A WORLD LIKE THIS... .....
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF IT WAS GONE.

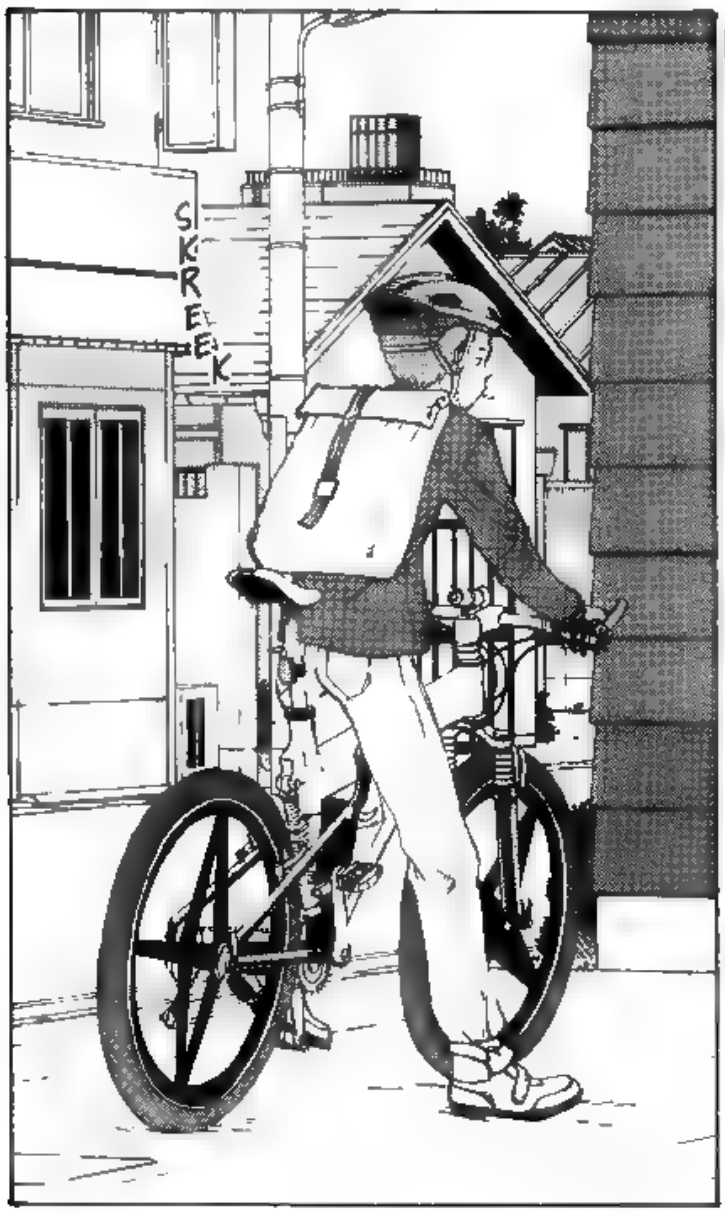
DON'T YOU EVER...
...THINK THAT?

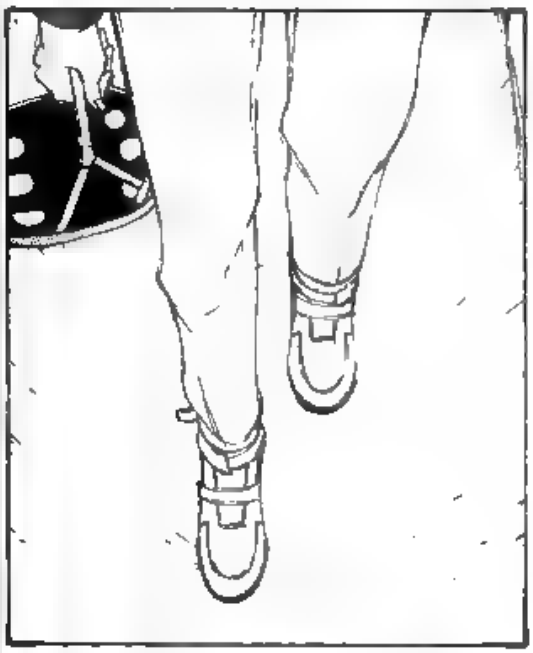
I HATE IT!
THIS WHOLE STUPID IDEA ABOUT "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST" IS AWFUL!
THAT'S WHY!
YOU SEE?!
I AL-WAYS...
Y-YES.
THAT KIND OF WORLD SHOULD BE--
KANGG
KANGG
HUH...?
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!
HI, SHIINA.

HIRO...? I THOUGHT YOU WERE SICK?
WHAT-EVER... COME ON IN.
I... I'LL LEAVE NOW.
I JUST... C-CAME TO SEE YOUR FACE FOR A SECOND, SHIINA.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO, TOO--
GRRGGLLL

SAY, HIRO...WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SUPPER WITH ME AND DAD TONIGHT?
YOU TOO, AKIRA.
KCHAK

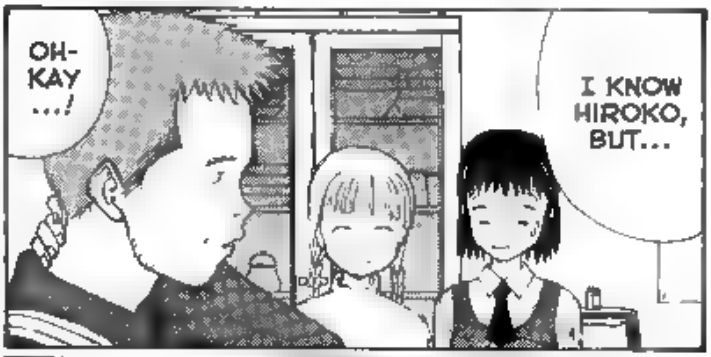



SKREEK



YO!
I'M HOME.

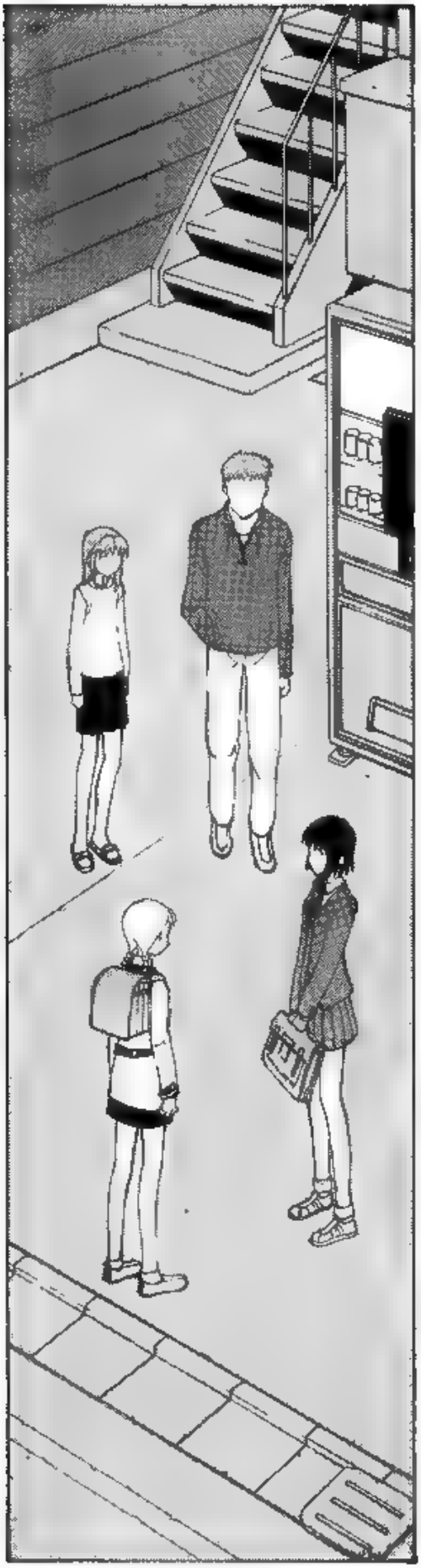
Welcome Ho--ome!


OH-KAY ...!
I KNOW HIROKO, BUT...

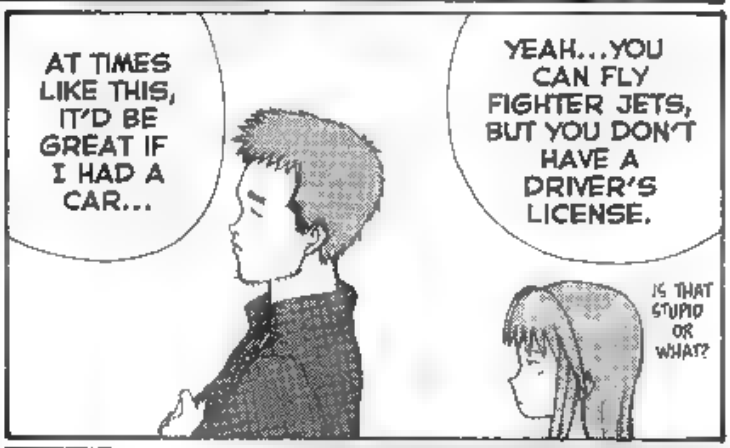
AH.../ AH... UM... I'M...
AK... AKI... .....

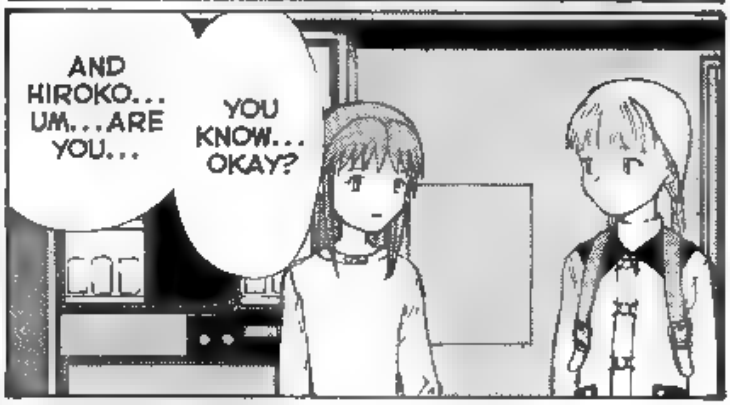
WHAT TH--?
THEY'RE GONNA HAVE SUPPER HERE TONIGHT.

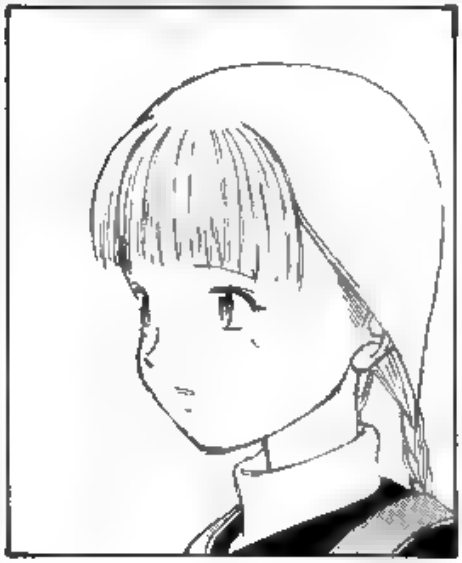
HER NAME'S AKIRA SAKURA.
SHE'S MY FRIEND.
THANKS FOR BEING FRIENDS WITH SHIINA.
SHE NEEDS ALL THE HELP SHE CAN GET!
OH... OH, NO! TH-THANK YOU!

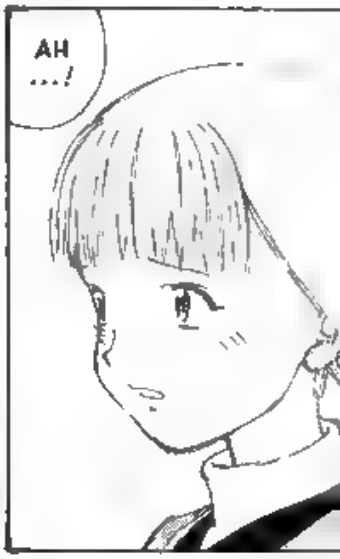


I'D BE HAPPY TO WALK YOU HOME, MISS SAKURA.
OH... NO...NO, I-I'M OKAY.


AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT'D BE GREAT IF I HAD A CAR...
YEAH...YOU CAN FLY FIGHTER JETS, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE.
IS THAT STUPID OR WHAT?


AND HIROKO... UM...ARE YOU...
YOU KNOW... OKAY?



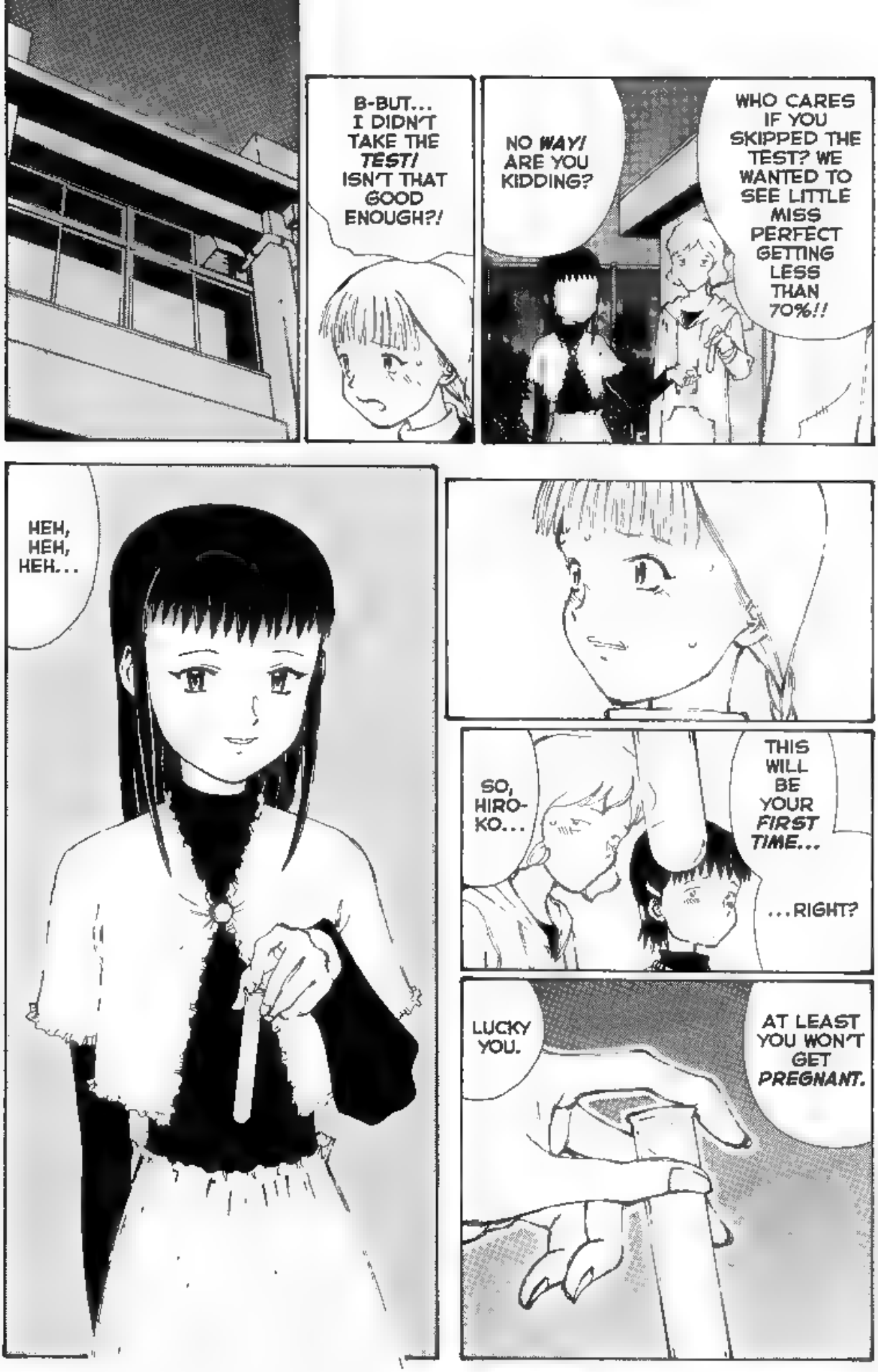

AH ...!

I'M FINE NOW, SHIINA. *THANK YOU.*
I HAD A REALLY GOOD TIME TODAY.
M... ME, TOO...
IT WAS... UM...
...REALLY *RELAXING.*
SEE YOU.
YEAH, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
GOOD NIGHT, SHIINA.
G'NIGHT ...!

AH... UM...
G-G... GOOD NIGHT, M-MR. TAMAI.
'NIGHT, AKIRA.

HI-
RO-
KO!
WE
SEE
YOU!

YOU...
YOU
CALLED?
YOU
CALLED
MY
HOUSE?!
OH,
DEAR!
A "MODEL
STUDENT" LIKE
YOU SHOULDN'T
BE SKIPPING
SCHOOL.
NAUGHTY,
NAUGHTY!
SO,
LET'S
GO TO
SCHOOL
NOW--
--AND
HAVE
SOME
FUN
TOGETHER.
S-SORRY
I'M LATE!
WHAT
KEPT
YOU?
COME
ON!


B-BUT... I DIDN'T TAKE THE *TEST!* ISN'T THAT GOOD ENOUGH?!
NO *WAY!* ARE YOU KIDDING?
WHO CARES IF YOU SKIPPED THE TEST? WE WANTED TO SEE LITTLE MISS PERFECT GETTING LESS THAN 70%!!
HEH, HEH, HEH...
SO, HIRO-KO...
THIS WILL BE YOUR *FIRST TIME...*
...RIGHT?
LUCKY YOU.
AT LEAST YOU WON'T GET *PREGNANT.*

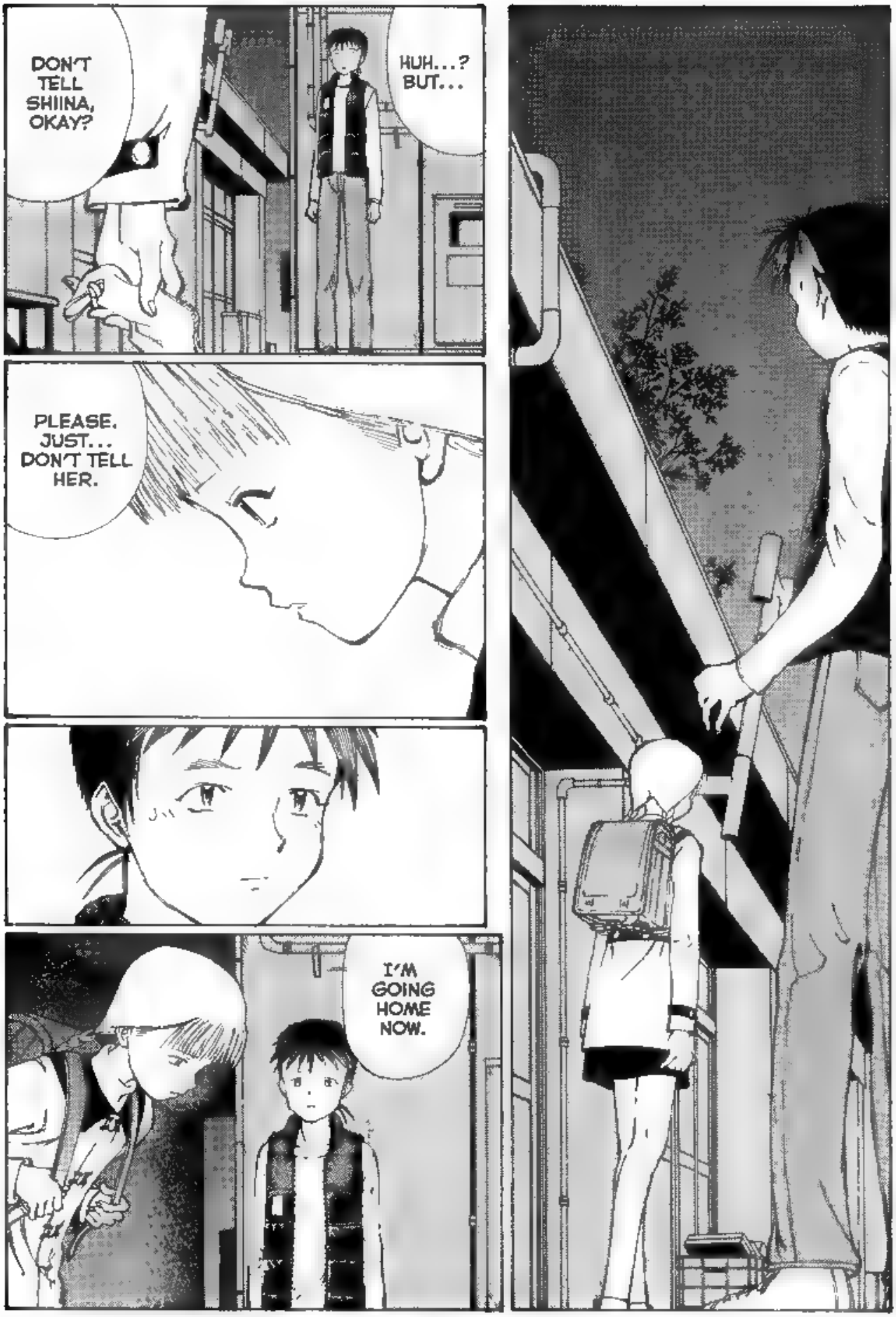
N-
NO!!
NO!!
NOOO!!
OH...
OH,
GOD!
P-
PLEASE
NO!!
HOLD
THE
LITTLE
BITCH
DOWN,
GIRLS.
LIE BACK
AND RELAX,
DEAR...
OR IT'LL
HURT EVEN
WORSE.

NO! NO!!
HEY, I SAID CUT IT OUT.
YOU'RE JUST GONNA MAKE IT WORSE.
OOH, LOOK AT THAT!!
HEE HEE!
HIROKO'S ALL GROWN UP!
SO... NOW...

STOP IT!!
=hahh=
=hahh=
WELL, LUCKY YOU, HIROKO.
IT'S YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR.

TAKAYA, HONEY... HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.
GO FOR IT...I GOT HER ALL READY FOR YOU!
AKI... I'M TELLING SHIINA.
H... HIROKO ...?
snff
I...I C-CAN'T... .....

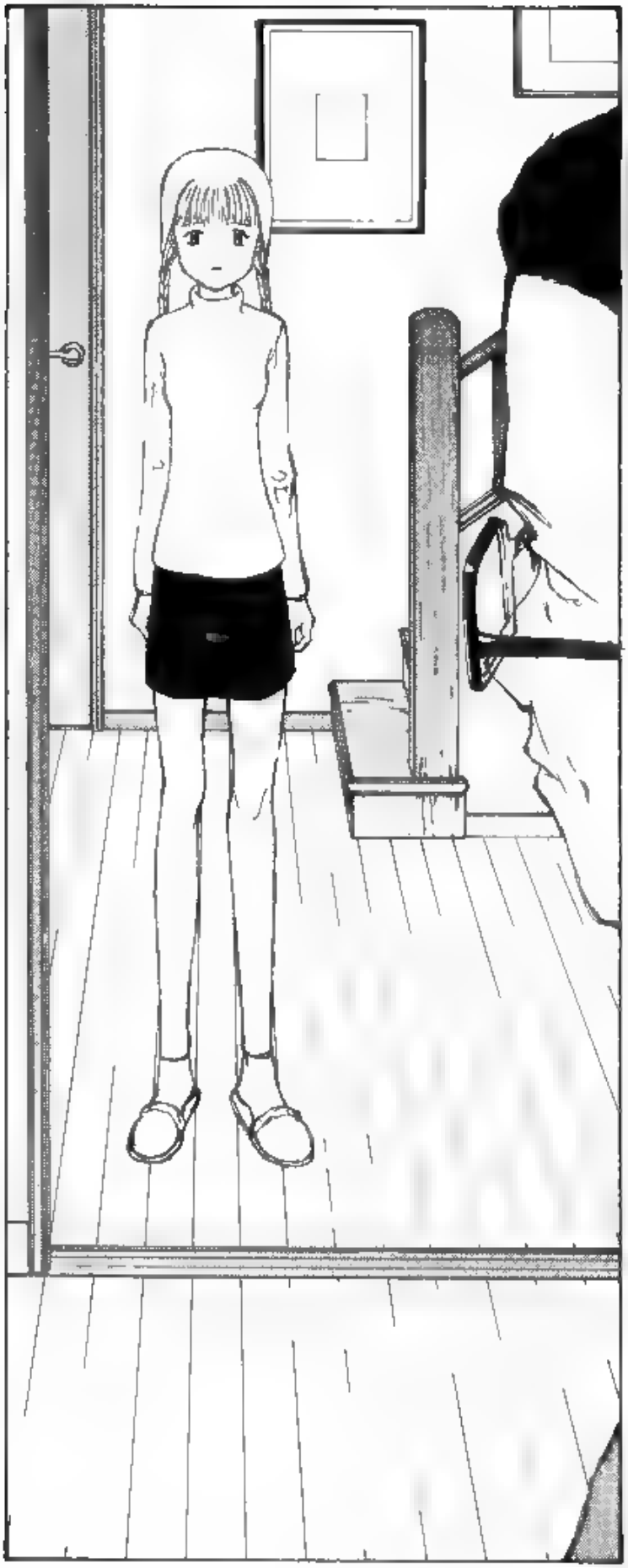
I...
HNNG...
=snpp=
=hkk=
I JUST C-CAN'T *TAKE IT* ANY MORE...
TAKAYA ...?
WH... WHAT?


DON'T TELL SHIINA, OKAY?
HUH...? BUT...
PLEASE. JUST... DON'T TELL HER.
I'M GOING HOME NOW.

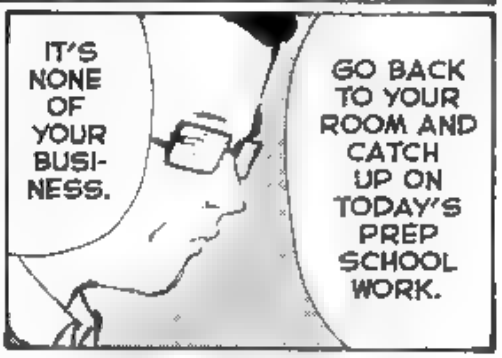
I'M BACK.
HIROKO ...?
WHERE WERE YOU TODAY?
I-I...
UH... ....
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SKIP PREP SCHOOL, TOO.
THAT'S ALL.
GO TO YOUR ROOM NOW.

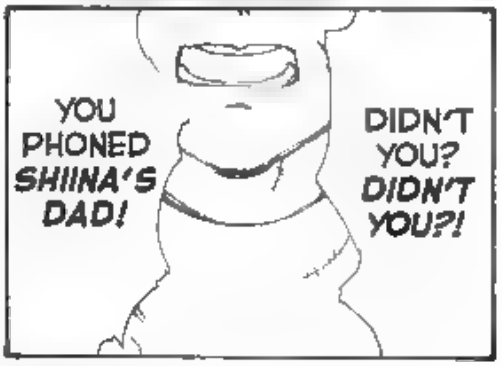
UM...
I...
....
YES, FATHER.

KLMPP
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN. IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR A PARENT TO THINK OF HIS CHILD'S FUTURE AND DO WHAT HE NEEDS TO.
A CHILD'S RIGHTS ...?
PLEASE UNDERSTAND MY DAUGHTER IS A DIFFERENT CLASS OF
SHE'S INTERFERING WITH HIROKO'S SCHOOLING.
I SAID, YOUR DAUGHTER IS A NUISANCE.
I'M NOT DISCUSSING THIS ANY FURTHER. YOUR DAUGHTER IS A BAD INFLUENCE ON OUR CHILD.
SEE THAT SHE DOES NOT HARASS HIROKO AGAIN.
KLIK
CHINGG



WHO...
WHO WERE YOU CALLING?


IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS.
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM AND CATCH UP ON TODAY'S PREP SCHOOL WORK.


YOU PHONED SHIINA'S DAD!
DIDN'T YOU? DIDN'T YOU?!

SKRAKK

AHH...
AHH ...!
SPLASH

WHAT WAS THE CALL ABOUT?
UH, NOTHING. JUST... SOME WORK STUFF.
CHINGG
OH, YEAH ...?
YES...?
UM... IT'S ME. TAKAYA.

WHAT IS IT?
IT'S LATE...
I...I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...
I... I...
I'LL *PROTECT* YOU, HIROKO.
TA-- ....
BUT... ISN'T *SHIINA* THE ONE YOU LIKE...?
I DUNNO... IT'S KINDA... *WEIRD* WITH HER.
BUT...
WITH *YOU*, I JUST FEEL LIKE... I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE.

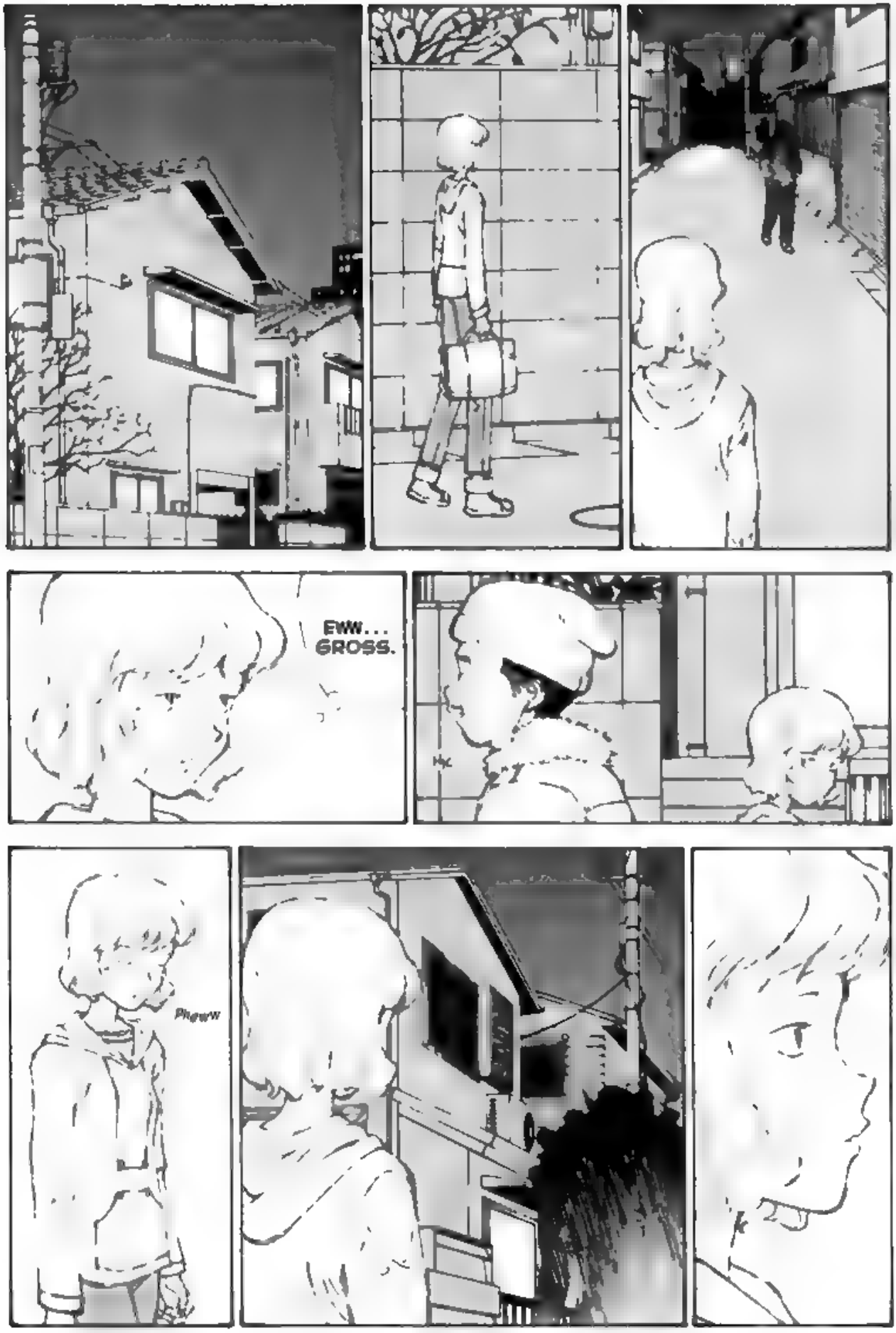
OH, TAKAYA...
WHY NOW...?
IF YOU'D TOLD ME THAT BACK THERE...I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD ON. BUT...
HUH? IS THAT BLOOD ...?
YOU'RE TOO LATE.
I'M SORRY...

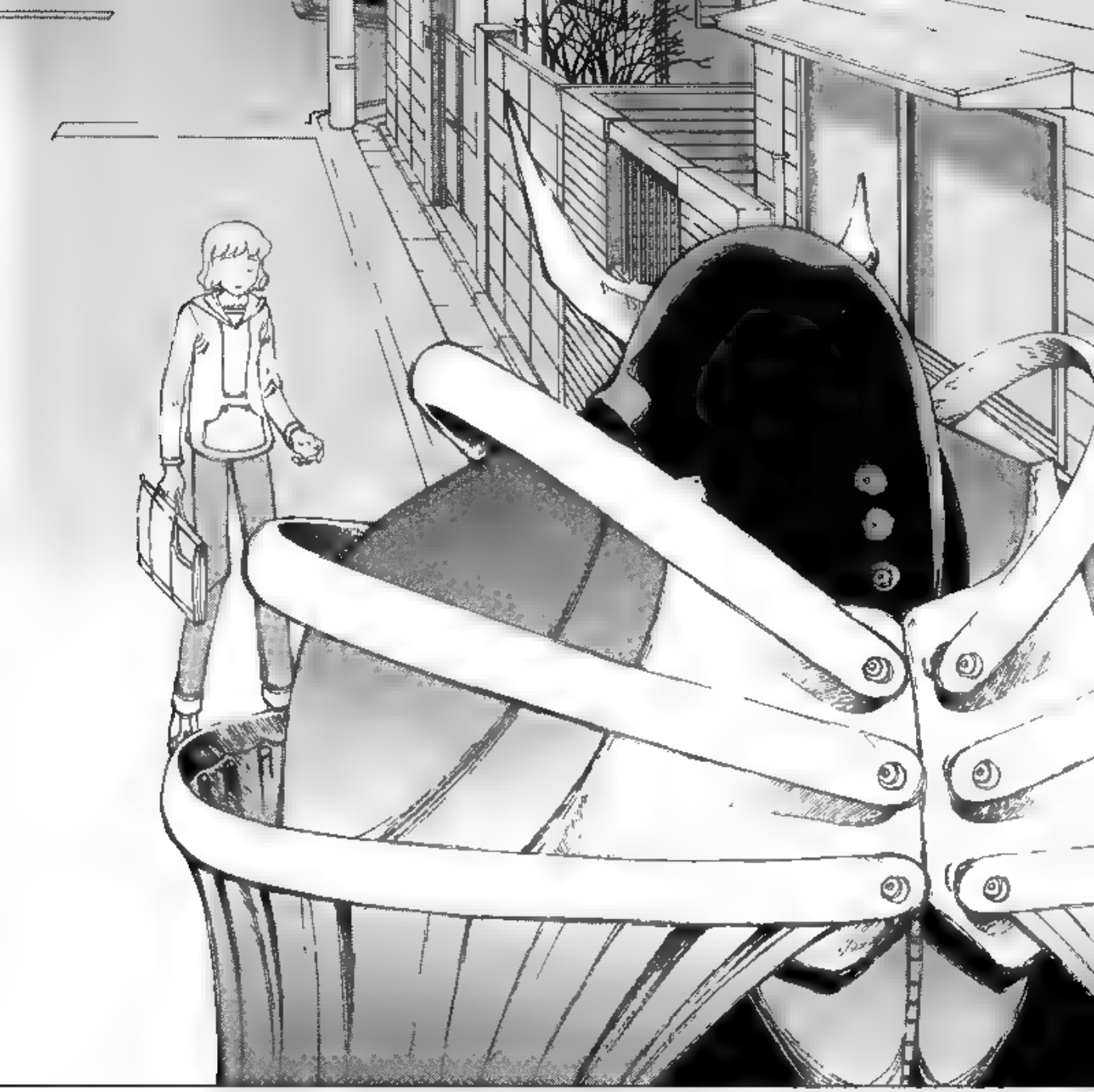
IT'S...
IT'S...
TOO LATE.
GOOD-BYE...
...TA-KAYA.
KCHAK

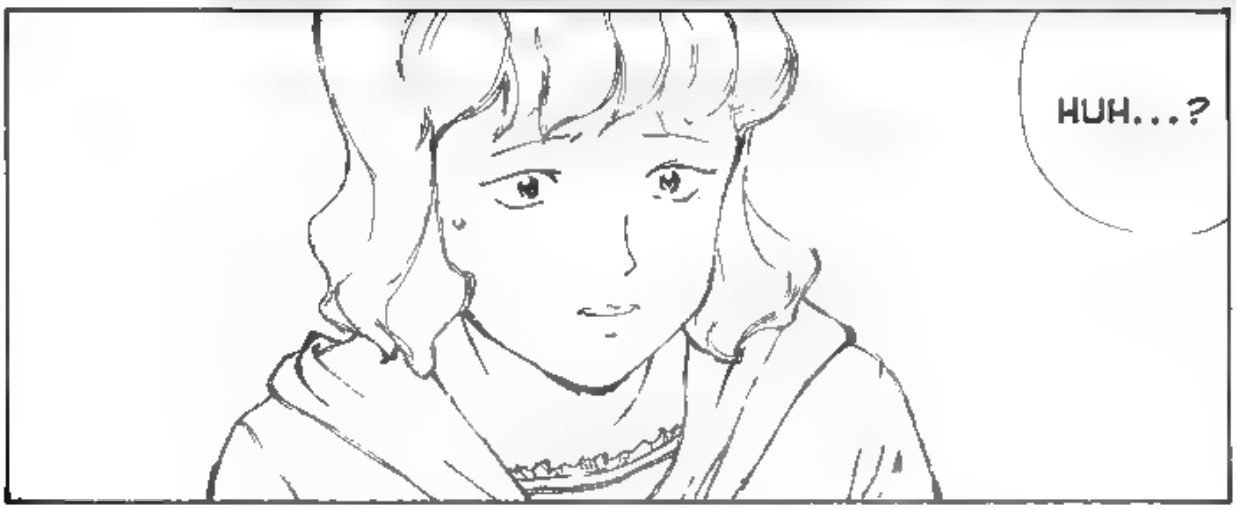
...??
"TOO LATE"
...?

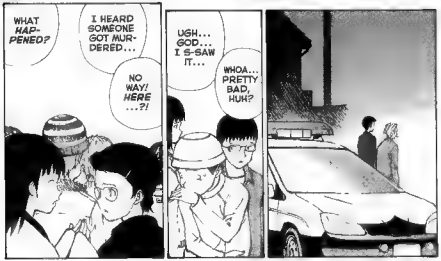
MORN-ING...!
HI, SHIINA.
WHOA... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
AW, NOTHING.
FORGET IT.

HIROKO KAIZUKA IS... ABSENT?
AKIRA SAKURA IS... ABSENT AGAIN?
OH, MAN...
WE DIDN'T EVEN KISS.

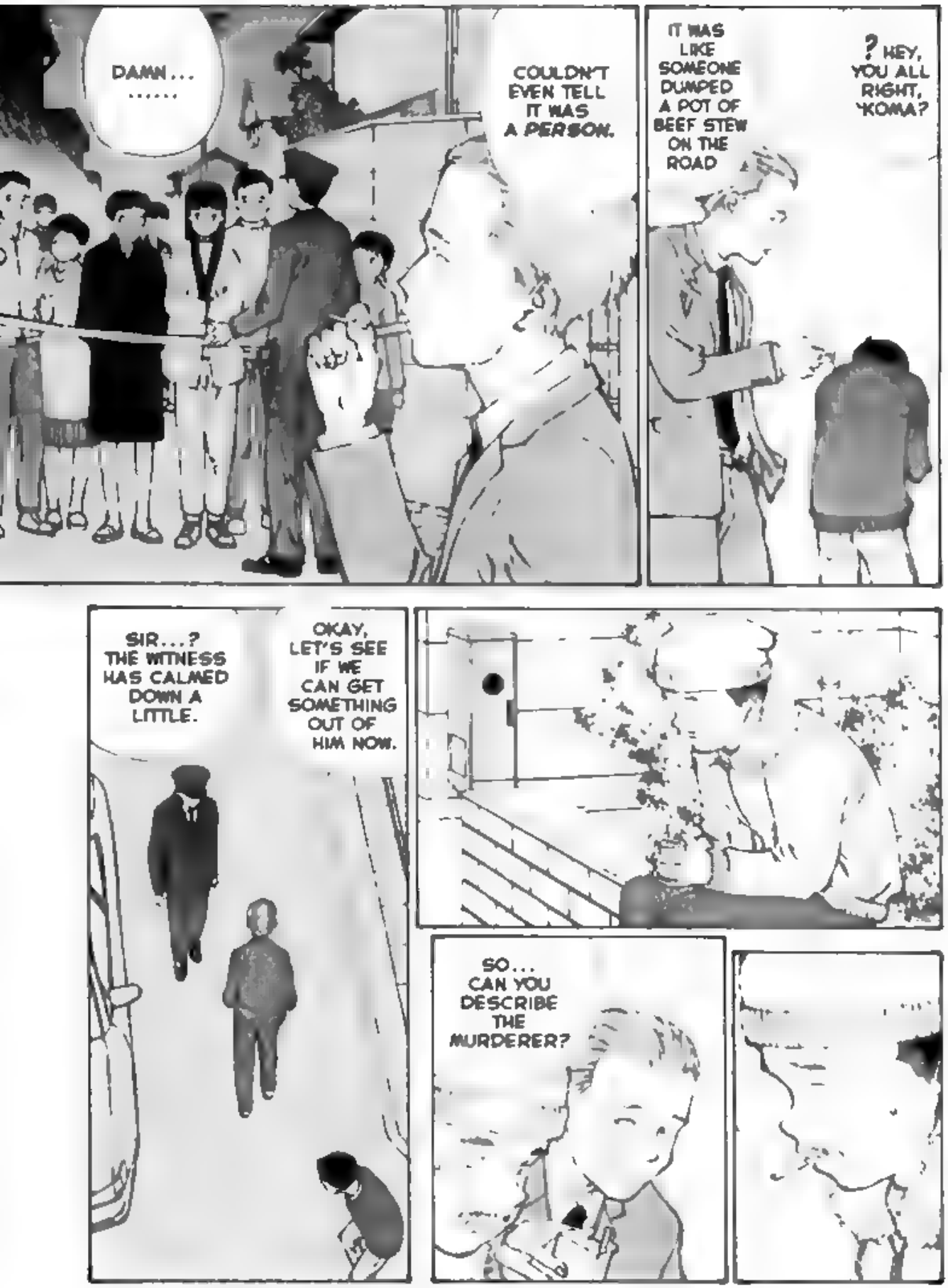

EWW...
GROSS.
Phewww




HUH...?

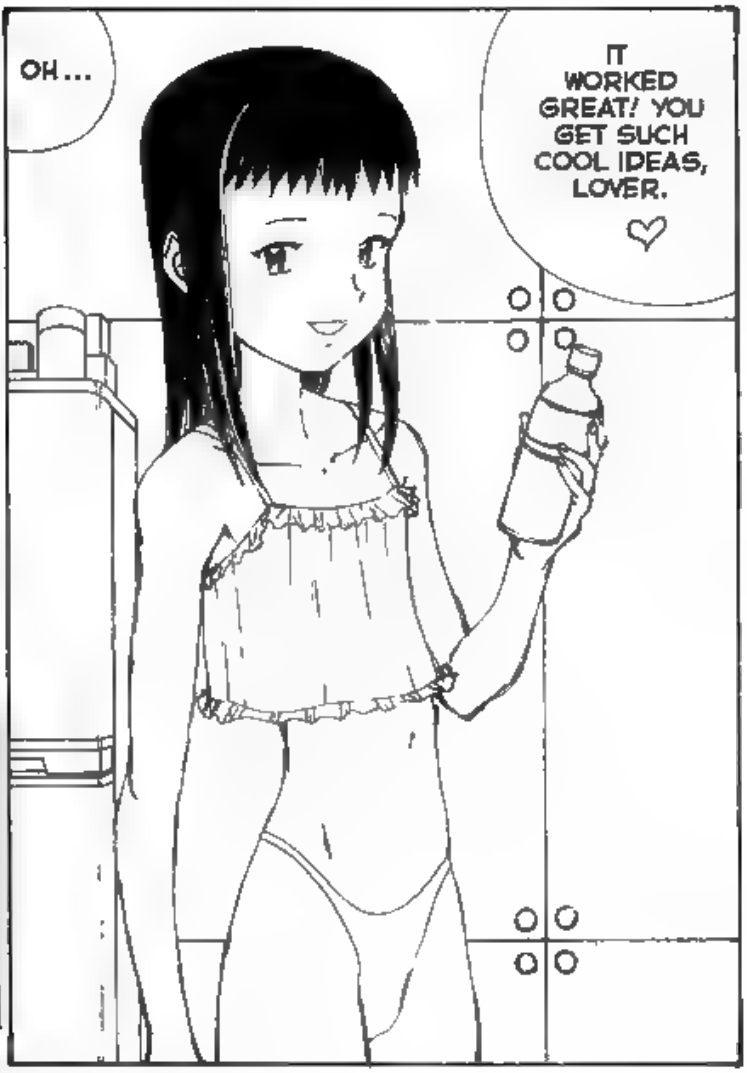

WHAT HAP-PENED?
I HEARD SOMEONE GOT MUR-DERED...
NO WAY! HERE ...?!
UGH... GOD... I S-SAW IT...
WHOA... PRETTY BAD, HUH?

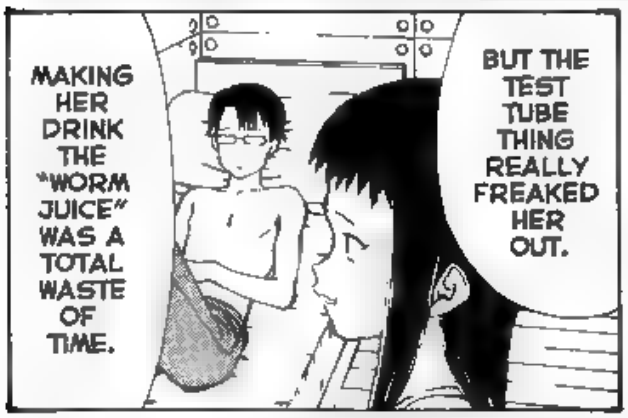
YOU KNOW, 'KOMA...
I'VE HAD A LONG CAREER...
...BUT WHAT THE HELL DID THAT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING THAT BAD BEFORE.


DAMN...
.....
COULDN'T EVEN TELL IT WAS A *PERSON.*
IT WAS LIKE SOMEONE DUMPED A POT OF BEEF STEW ON THE ROAD
? HEY, YOU ALL RIGHT, 'KOMA?
SIR...? THE WITNESS HAS CALMED DOWN A LITTLE.
OKAY, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET SOMETHING OUT OF HIM NOW.
SO... CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE MURDERER?

IT... IT WASN'T A P- PERSON...
IT...
IT WAS A MONSTER.
A MON- STER ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE VICTIM, SIR.
HMM... "MIHAYA OZAKI"...
SO YOUNG...

SO...
HOW DID MY TEST TUBE IDEA GO, AKI?


OH...
IT WORKED GREAT! YOU GET SUCH COOL IDEAS, LOVER.


MAKING HER DRINK THE "WORM JUICE" WAS A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME.
BUT THE TEST TUBE THING REALLY FREAKED HER OUT.

I WON'T, I WON'T.
GEEZ...
HEH... WHY DON'T I BELIEVE YOU?

JUST DON'T ACTUALLY KICK HER, OKAY, AKI?
PRE-TENDING YOU'RE GOING TO IS ENOUGH.

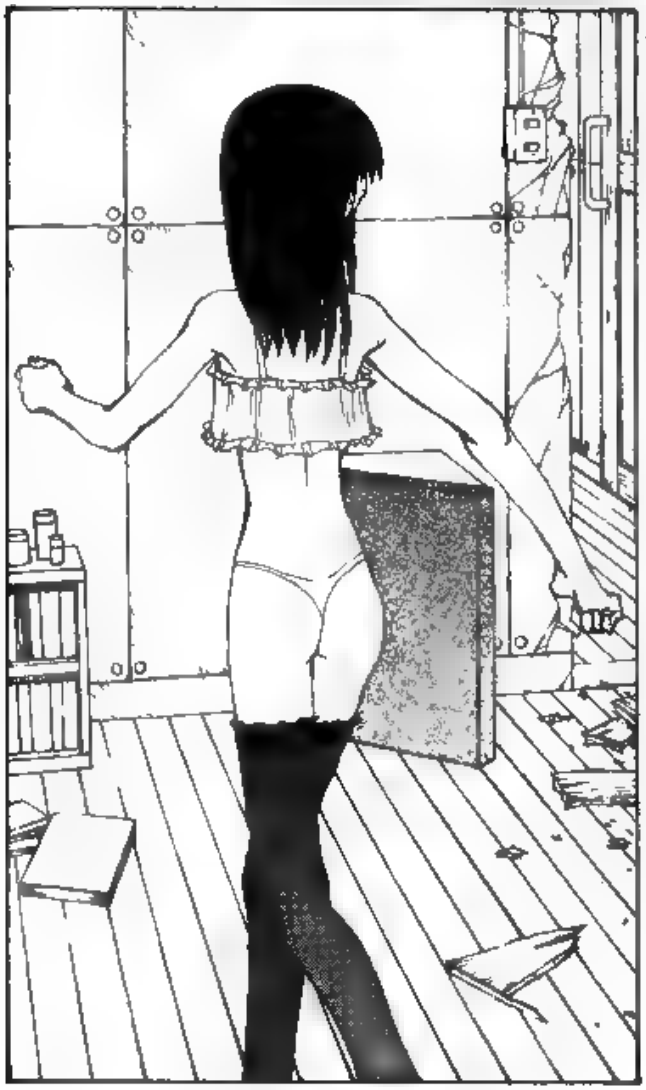
BUT THINK ABOUT IT...IF YOU *REALLY* DID IT, THERE WOULD BE A MAJOR MESS, AND YOU'D GET INTO DEEP SHIT FOR SURE.
JUST SWING YOUR FOOT LIKE YOU'RE GONNA DO IT, AND SHE'LL PROBABLY PASS OUT.
AWW, DON'T WORRY.
I MEAN, I'M NOT REALLY A *BAD* GIRL.
OH, YEAH ...?
THINK
WHAT WAS THAT...?

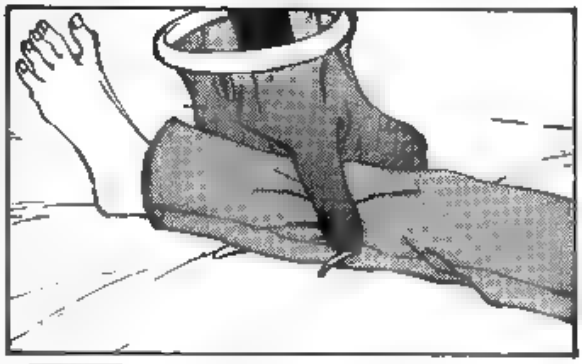
SPRAKK
WHD

WHA--?!
WHAT THE F--
WHTT

SPLAK
PLSSH
SLICH
AH...
AH...

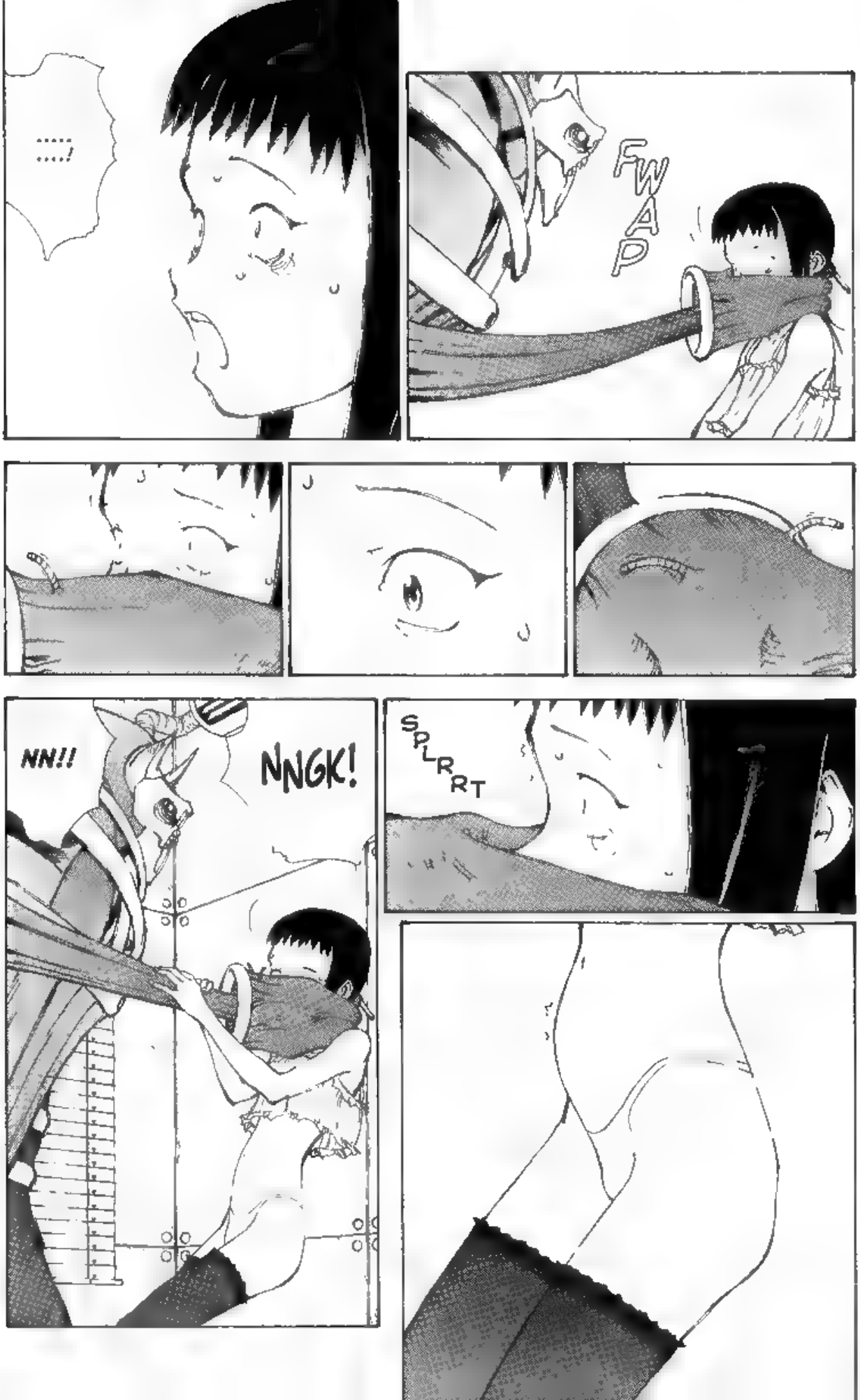
EEEKK!!



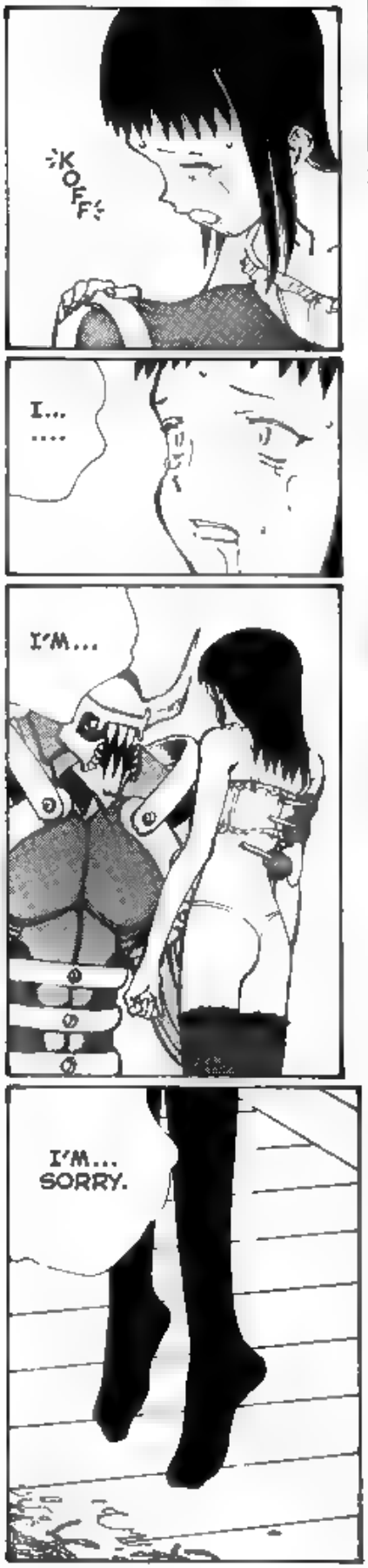


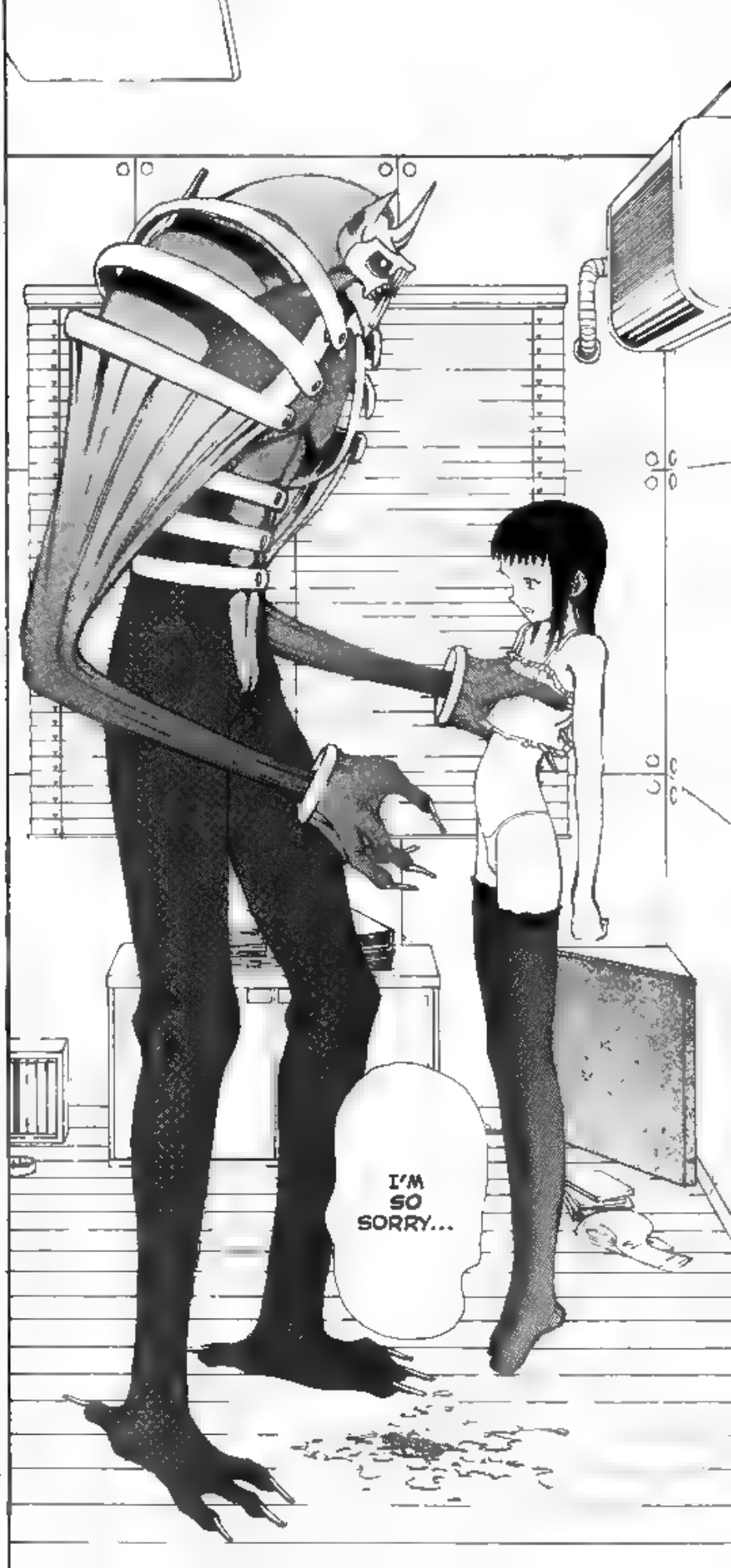
WHSSH

FDD
AAGHK!
HNNG!
=HAAA=
SPLTT
AH...!

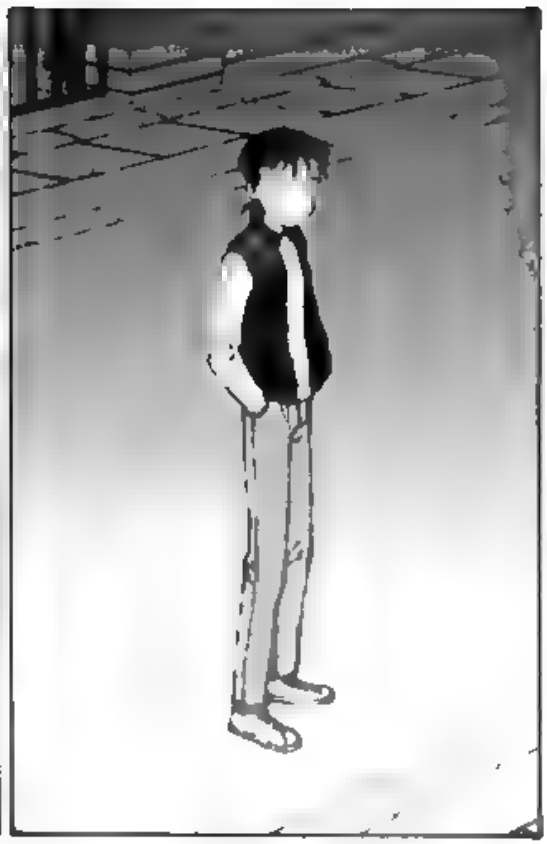

.....
.....!
FWAP
NN!!
NNGK!
SPLRRT

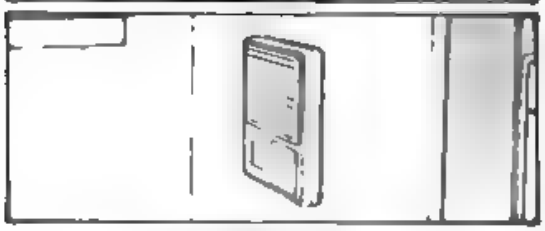
H...
HIRO...
...KO?
SPLT
PLTT
HLRRGH!
HGGK!


KOFF
I...
....
I'M...
I'M... SORRY.

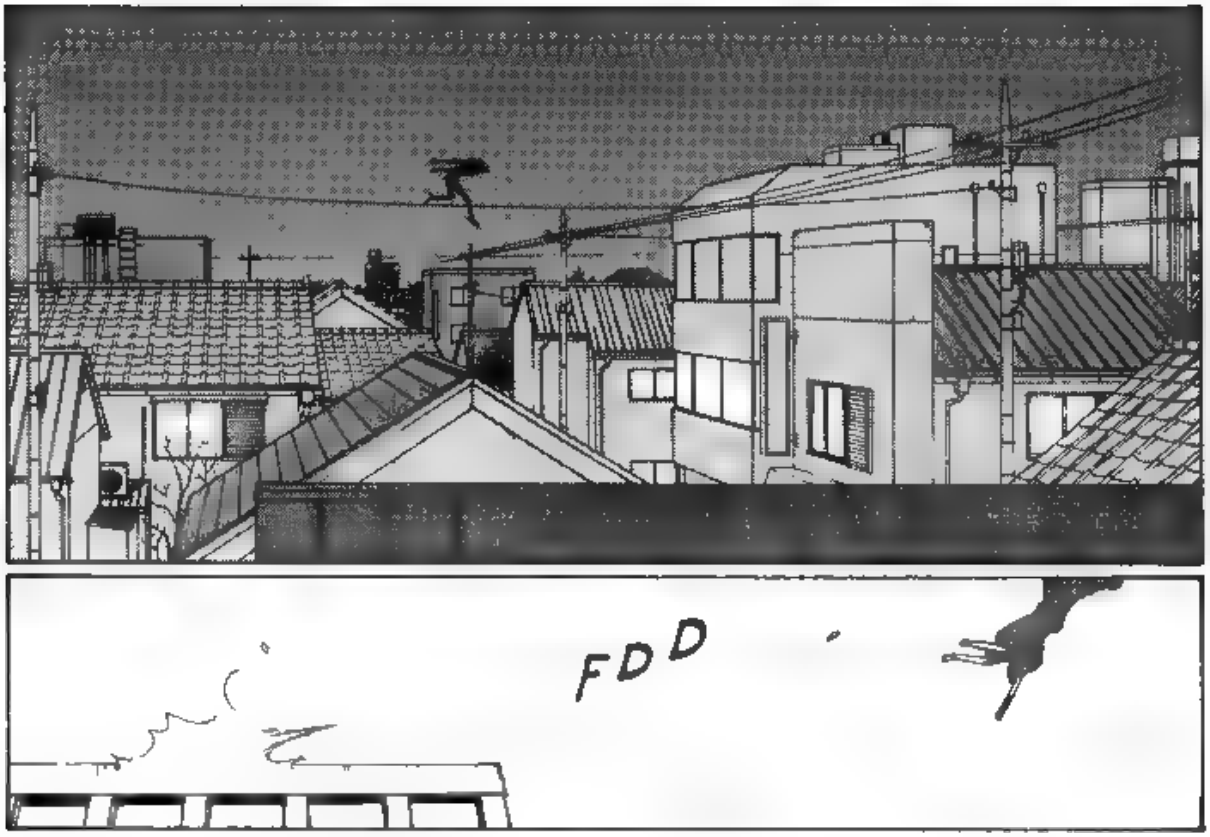

I'M SO SORRY...

OH...
SHIKK
AUUGH!

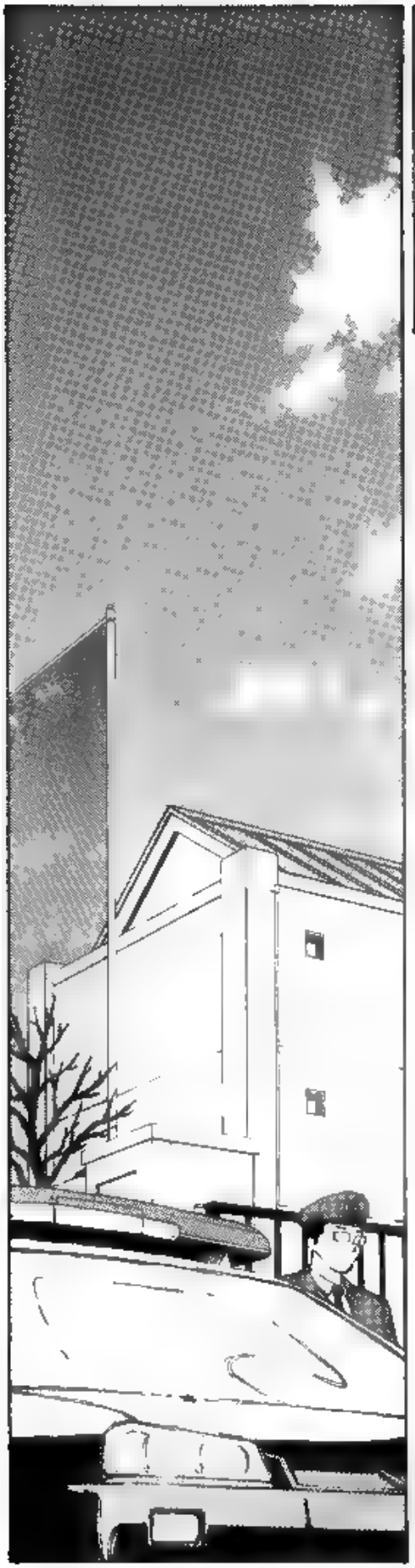


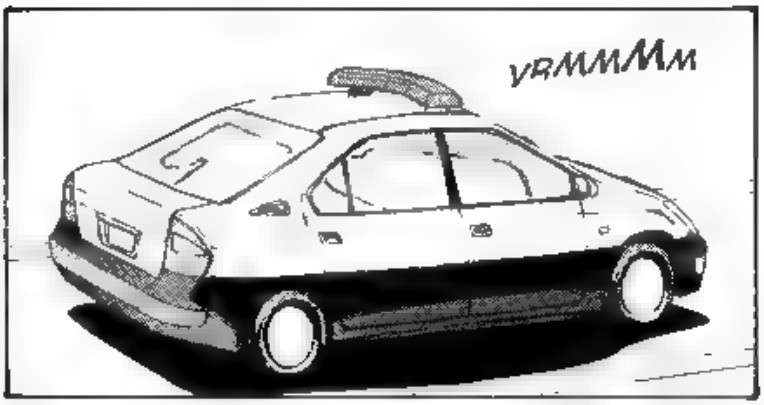


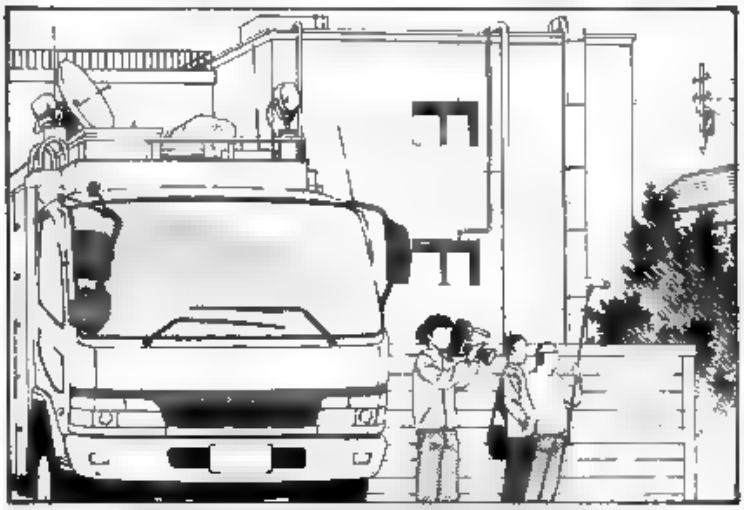
WEE OOO
WEE OOO

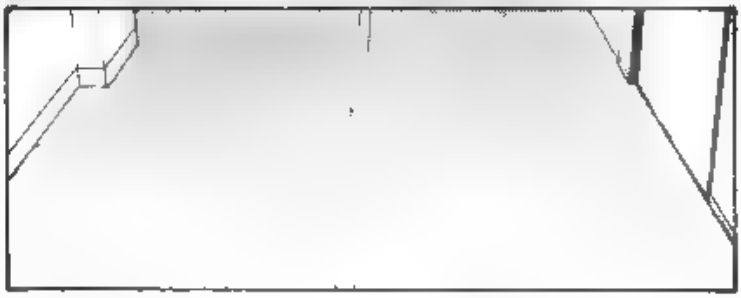

FDD

MORNING, DADDY! WOW... WASN'T IT NOISY LAST NIGHT WITH ALL THOSE POLICE CARS AND STUFF?
HUH? WERE THERE?
GUESS I WAS OUT OF IT
MR. TAMAI! MR. TAMAI!
DINGG
DONGG
OH, HI! WHAT'S UP? THE RENT?
NO, NO! SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* HAS HAPPENED!
WHAT?!




VRMMMM



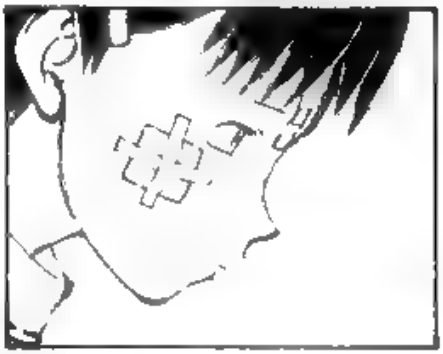


G-GOOD MORN-ING...
WHOA... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
HEY, MIYOKO, DID'JA HEAR WHAT HAPPENED?
HUH ...?
THEY'RE SAYING TWO OF THE KIDS FROM OUR CLASS...
...GOT KILLED/ MUR-DERED!!
EH?
N-NO... NO WAY!
MIHAYA...
...AND AKI.
WH... WHO?
NOBODY'S SAID ANYTHING FOR SURE, BUT I HEARD IT'S...

H-HIRO-KA...
IT... IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE, OKAY...?
SHIINA... .....
MIYOKO ...?
S-SHIINA...
SHIINA, I...
UMM...

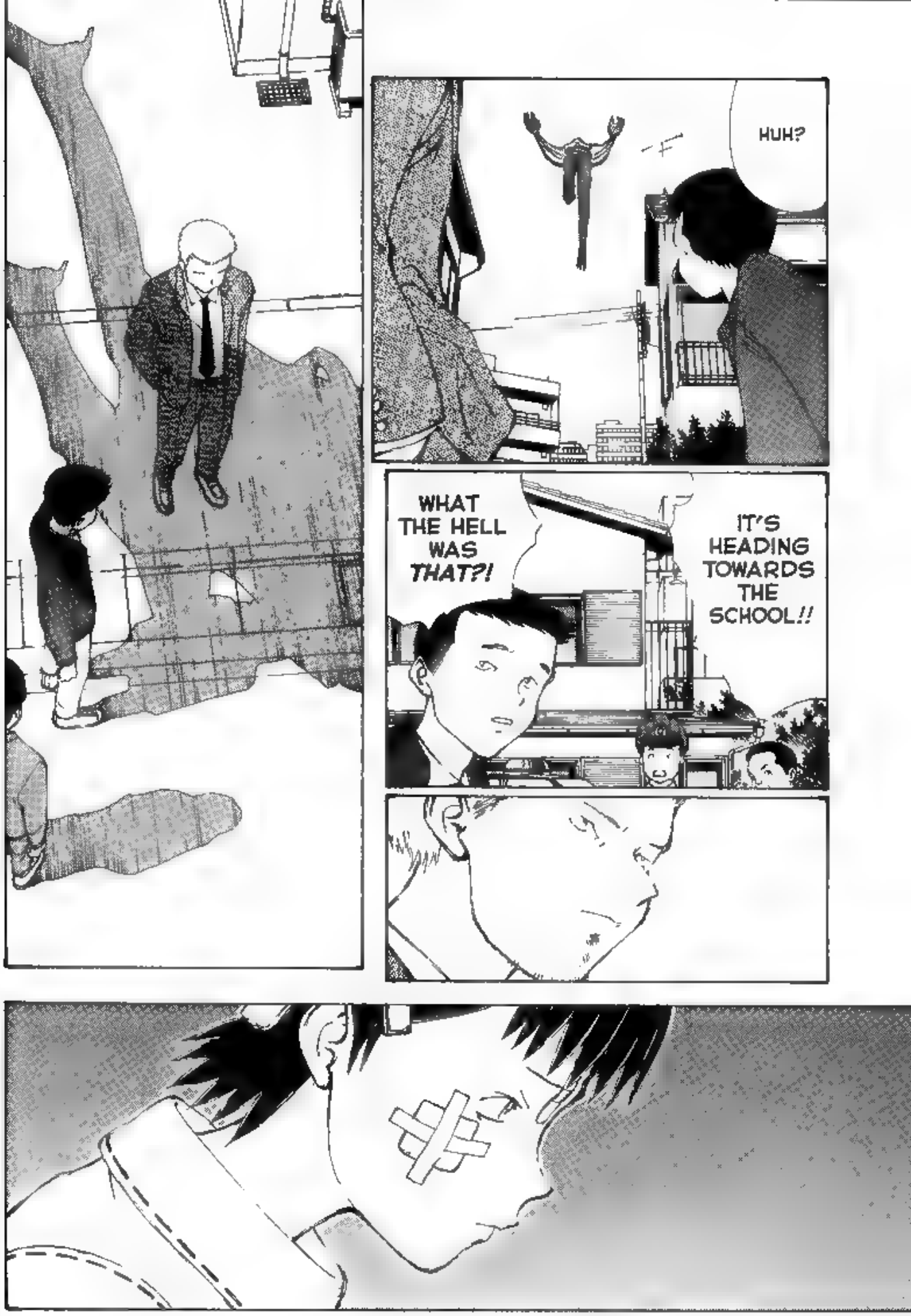
MIYOKO!!
!!
YOU JUST SHUT UP!!
BU... BUT...
ER... I THINK YOU'VE ALL HEARD MOST OF THIS ALREADY, BUT...

YESTERDAY, MIHAYA OZAKI...
...AND AKI HONDA... UH... PASSED AWAY.



IT'S SO SUDDEN THAT I, AS YOUR TEACHER, DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEST TO DO. BUT IF THERE IS ANYTHING ON YOUR MIND...
...ANYTHING THAT YOU'RE TROUBLED ABOUT, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TELL ME AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP.

THE NPA DETECTIVE BUREAU ...?
WHAT'S A BUREAUCRAT DOING HERE?
NPA "The National Police Agency, similar to the FB
CUT ME SOME SLACK, OKAY? I'M NO DESK JOCKEY.
I STARTED OUT IN THE MPD.
MPD Metropolitan Police Department. Tokyo's police departmen
SO THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE THAT TIGHT-ASSED LOOK.
THAT'S A RELIEF! NOW I WON'T HAVE TO HOLD YOUR HAND.
HEH!
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT. I--
THAP

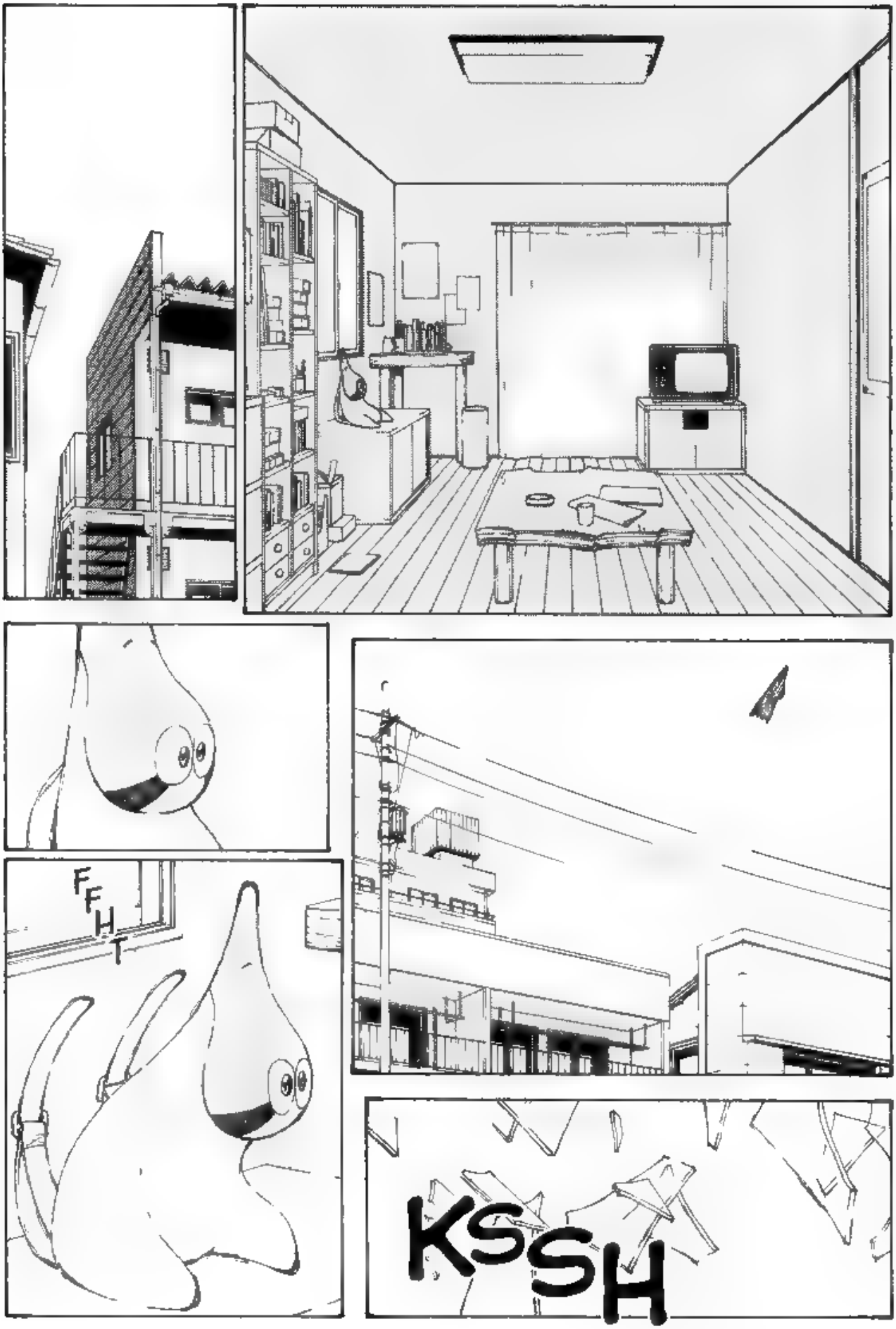

HUH?
WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?!*
IT'S HEADING TOWARDS THE SCHOOL!!

MR. SUMINO...
WHAT IS IT, MIYOKO?
I... I...
I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO SAY...
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!!
WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!!
MISS TAKA-MURA !!
NOW, MIYOKO... WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY?

H-HONDA AND OZAKI AND I... .....
AND... AND SEVERAL OTHERS FROM THIS CLASS... WE WERE *BULLYING* HIROKO.
AND THERE WERE LOTS OF KIDS WHO KNEW ABOUT IT...
... AND IGNORED IT.

AH... AND NOW HONDA AND OZAKI GOT *KILLED*... AND... AND MAYBE...
ARE YOU SUGGESTING *HIROKO KAIZUKA* IS RESPONSIBLE?!
WELL, UM... I...
SHE... ....
THANK YOU, MIYOKO. WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS MORE LATER.
BUT...
THE POLICE ARE SEARCHING HARD FOR THE CRIMINAL, SO DON'T WORRY.
BE REASONABLE! YOU *CAN'T* BE SERIOUS ABOUT HIROKO.
IT COULDN'T BE HER.
WHO
AH--?

SKRASSH
KRAK


FFHT
KSSH

EEEK !!
OWW!
SKRAK

KRNCH
AAH!!
AAH!!
FDD
WHT

AUGH!
THAP
HKK!
SKRASH
AAA!!
SPRAKK

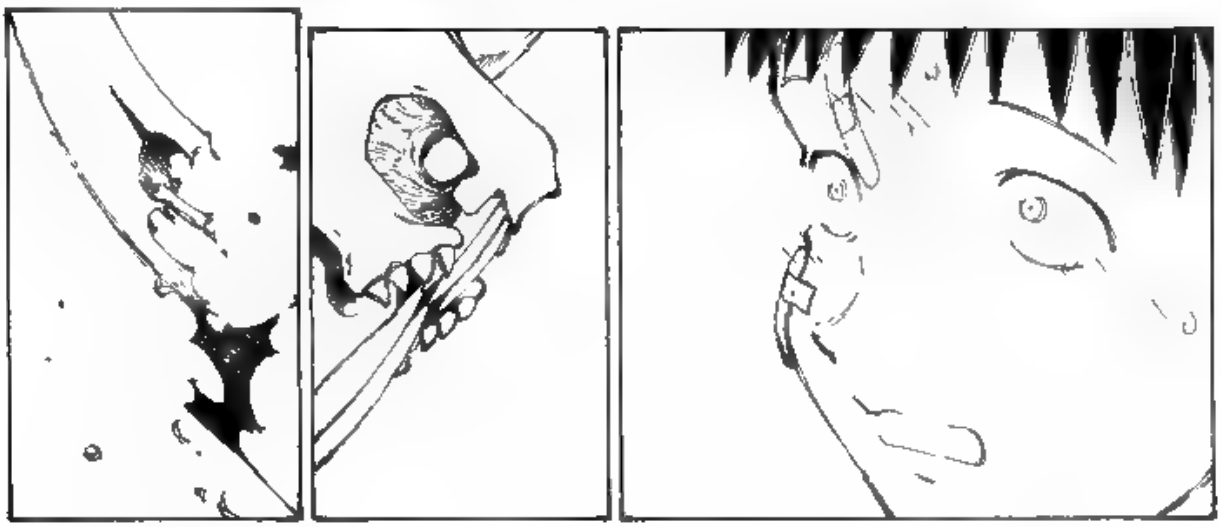
FDD
EEEK!!
HOLY SHIT!! RUN!!
RUN!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
EVERYBODY EVACUATE!
DON'T PANIC!
AH...
AH...
COME ON, RIKA!
MIYOKO!

MIYOKO, RUN!!
FWHTT
KRAK

FWHAM
MIYOKO!!
WHAT THE HELL IS--
M-MIYOKO ...?
AAA
AAG

SKRAK



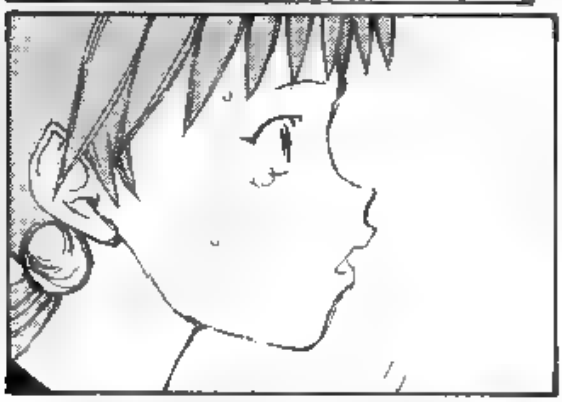
THADD

RYAHH!!
FWAK
LET HER GO!!
WHAK
FWAK
HRRK!
THAP

TAKAYA!!
FWDD
MIYOKO!!
KRNCH
NGH!

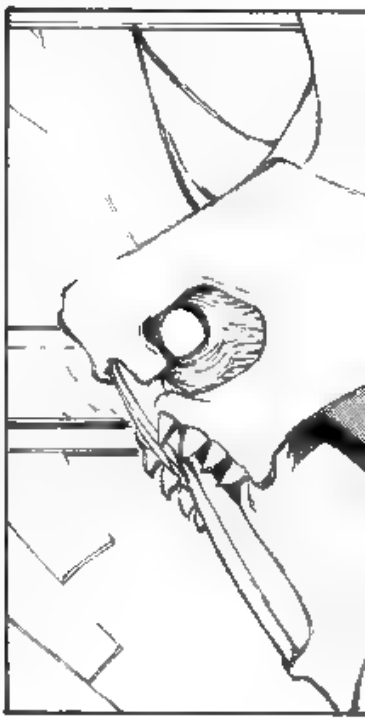
KRAK
MIYOKO ...!!
OH MY GOD!
=hahh=
=hahh=
LET HER GO!
I SAID LET HER GO!!
FWAK
WHO ARE YOU?!
TELL ME!!

KRAK



P-
PLEASE...
I...
I'M
SORRY...
I'M
SO
SORRY
HIROKO..
KOFF

HI...
...HIRO-
KO?

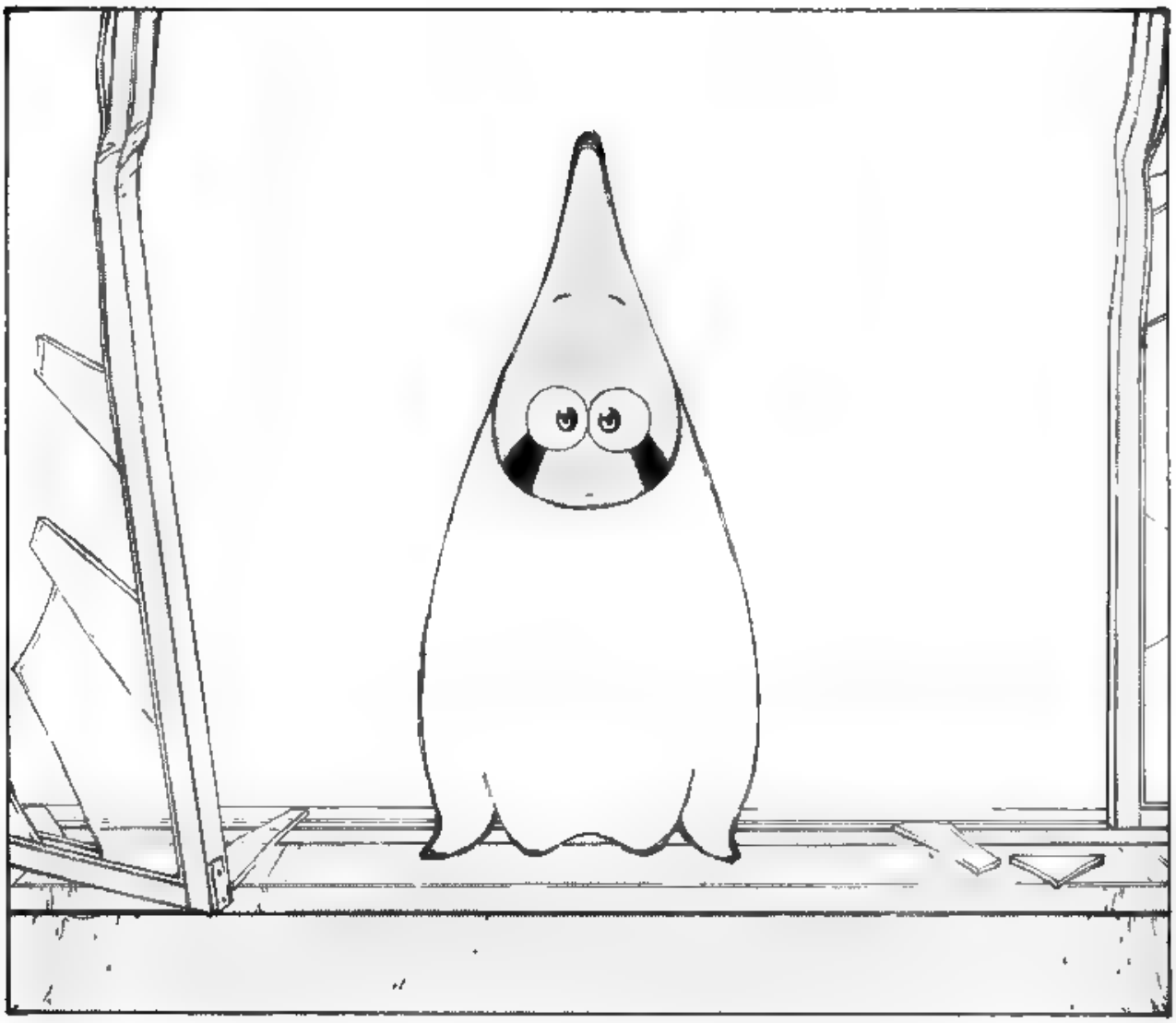


HIROKO, IS THAT...
...YOU?
"HIROKO" ...? SHIINA, WHAT--?
NNFH!
I'M SORRY
HIROKO
MIYOKO !!

THOK

AAH!
FWMP

HOSHI
...?



HOSHI-MARU!
ANOTHER WEIRD ONE!!

GET OUT!! NOW!!
OH, UH... YEAH.

FTT
FTT
WHTT
THOK
THOK
SLPP
WHSSH

SKRASSH
KRAK
GET AWAY!
EVERY-BODY RUN!!
WHT

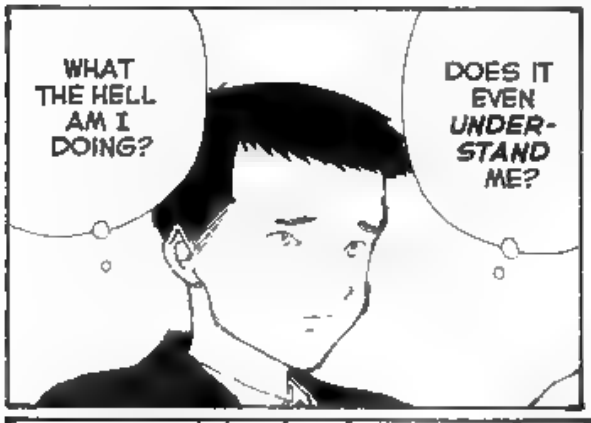
WHDD

FWMP

SHIINA
...?!

HIROKO... DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
...IS WRONG.
SPLTT
TO KILL PEOPLE... LIKE THIS... DON'T--

DON'T MOVE!!


WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
DOES IT EVEN UNDER-STAND ME?

HURRY UP AND EVACUATE THE CHILDREN. NOW!

OKAY ...?
JUST STOP DOING THIS.

HUH? HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GET AWAY FROM IT!!

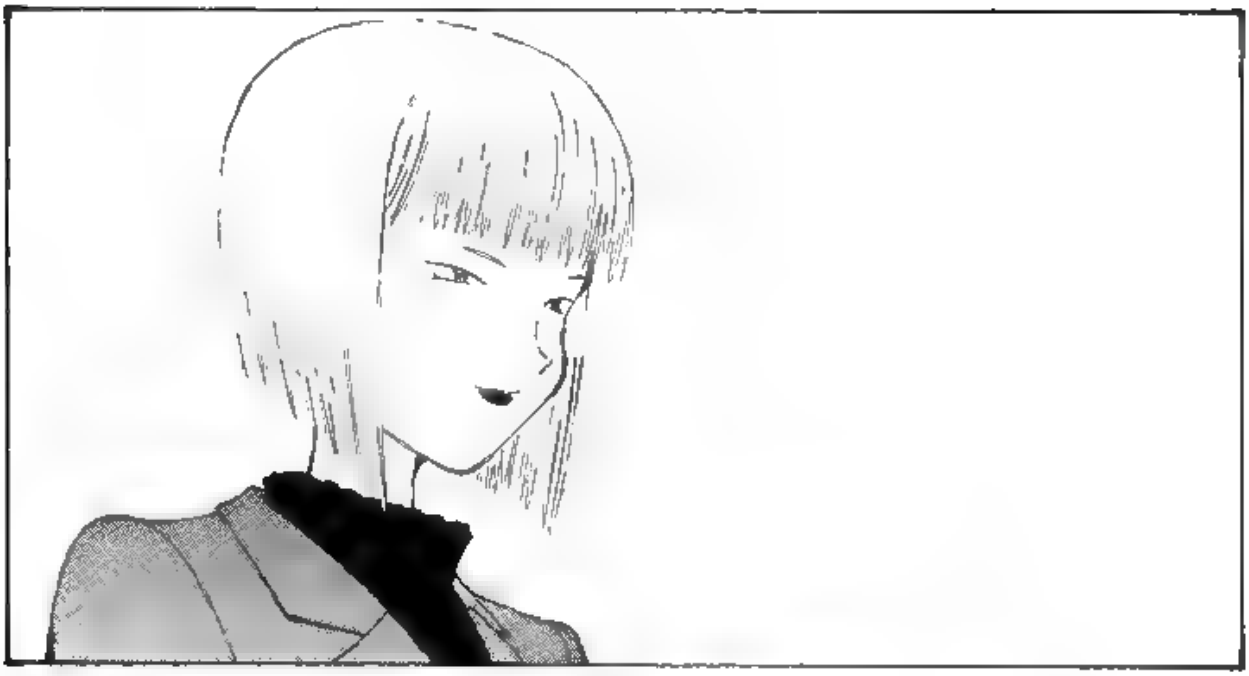
WAIT A SEC...
IT'S... SHAKING?
OKAY ...?
WHHSH

WHRAKK
WHOA!!
IT IS YOU, ISN'T IT?
HIROKO.

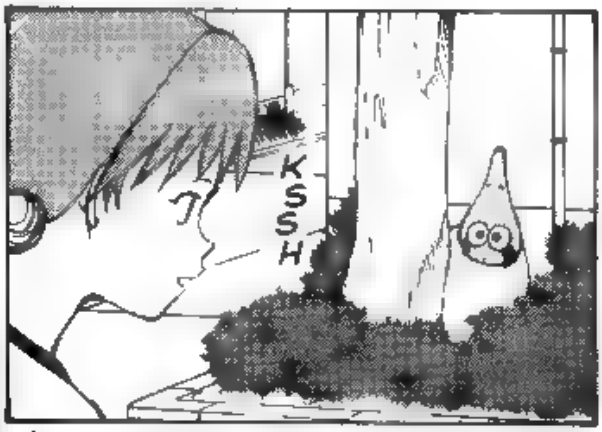
SKRAK
FWHTT
UH...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEY, YOU! WAIT!!
YEAH, I'M FINE.
BUT I BETTER FIND HIROKO.
THAT GIRL...
WHERE HAVE I SEEN HER BEFORE ...?

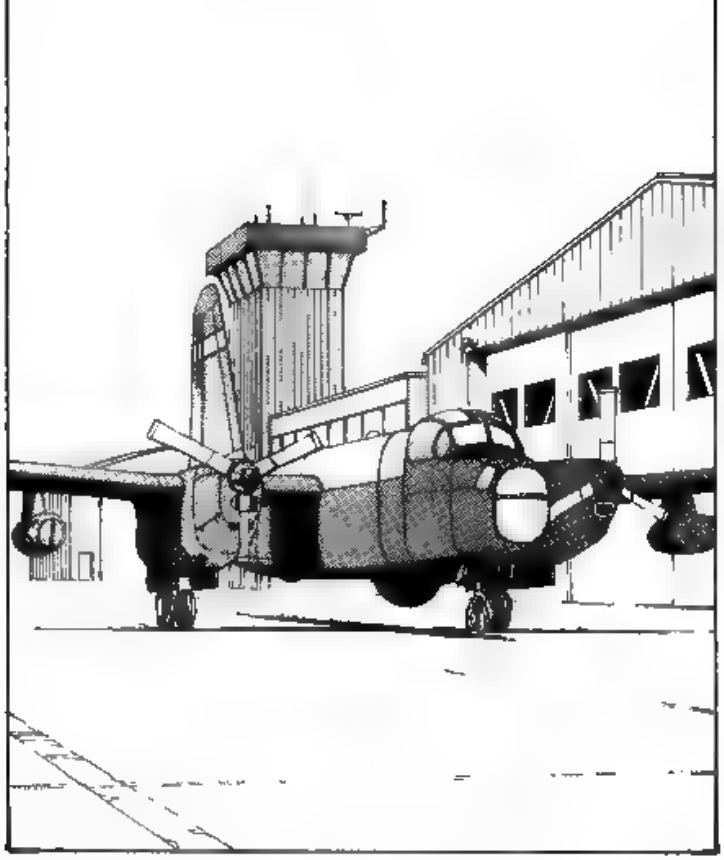
WEE-OOO
WEE-OOO
TARGET FLEEING ALONG THE ROOFS!!
IT'S HEADING NORTH!!
WHAT THE HELL IS *THIS?*
YOU MEAN TO SAY IT REALLY *IS* A MONSTER?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
THERE ARE *WITNESSES*, SIR.
I KNOW, I *KNOW.*
WHERE CAN IT BE HEADED?
捜査本部
"HEADED"...? WHO KNOWS IF THIS MONSTER OR WHATEVER IS EVEN *INTELLIGENT?*

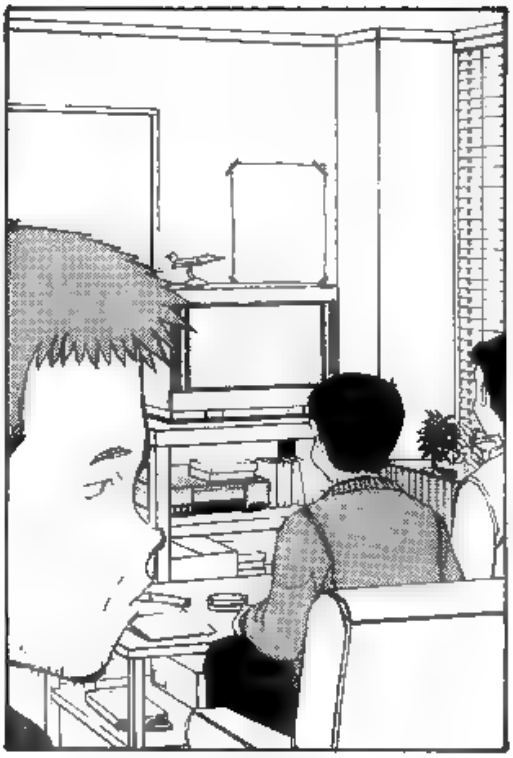


HOSHI-
MARU!
HOSHI-
MARU!


KSSH

COME ON... LET'S GO TO HIROKO'S HOUSE.



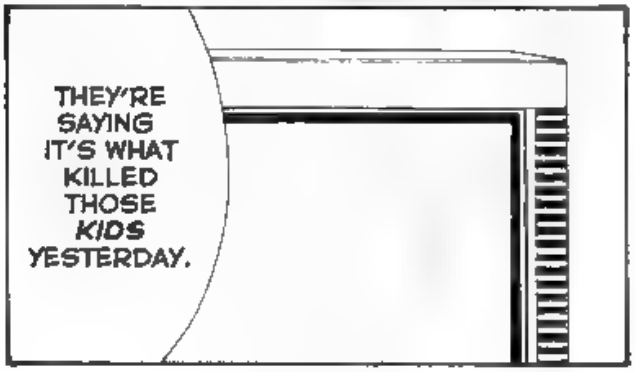


WATCHING TV INSTEAD OF WORKING?
THE BOSS IS GOING TO KICK YOUR BUTTS.

A "MONSTER"...?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

THE POLICE AND TV CREWS ARE AFTER IT, BUT...
...IT'S LIKE, IT'S GOT *HORNS*, AND IT'S *HUGE!*

CHECK IT OUT, MR. TAMAI! THIS IS *CRAZY STUFF!*
THEY'RE SAYING THERE'S A *MONSTER* ON THE LOOSE!


THEY'RE SAYING IT'S WHAT KILLED THOSE *KIDS* YESTERDAY.

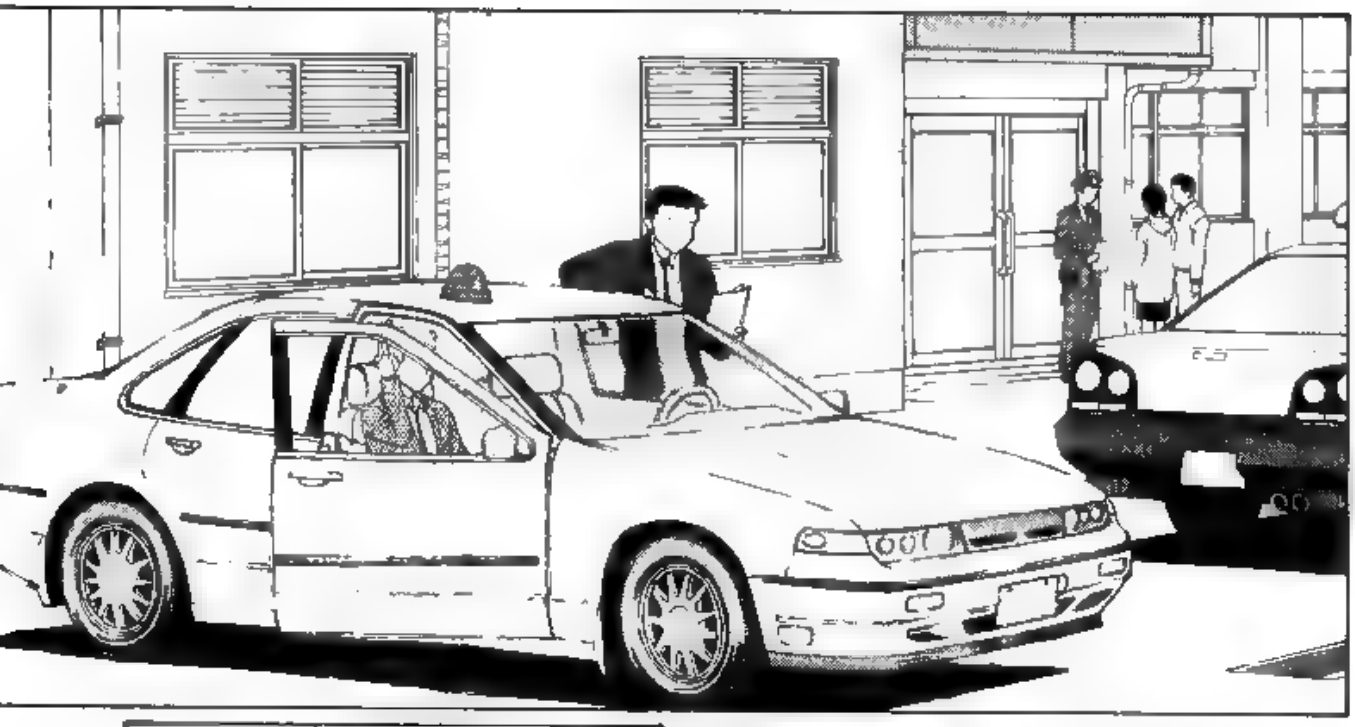
REALLY ...?
AND IT SEEMS TO BE HEADED *OUR* WAY.
THEN... HOW ABOUT *WE* CAPTURE IT?
IDIOT!

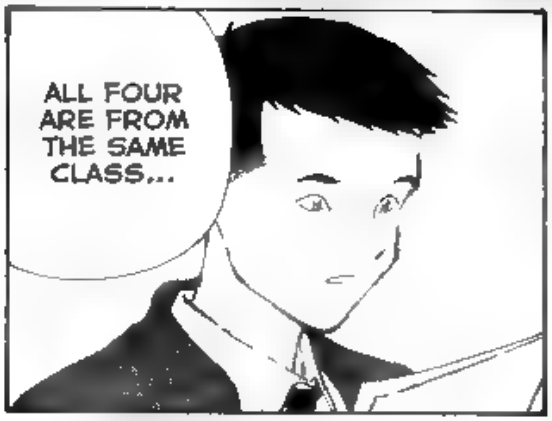
WEE-ooo
WEE-ooo
OH MY GOD!!
MI-YOKO ...!!
WE'RE REPORTING FROM THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT, GOKA PUBLIC SCHOOL.
THE CRIME SCENE IS STILL CHAOTIC, AND WE CAN'T GET RELIABLE INFORMATION...
...THOUGH WE HEAR RUMORS THAT THE INTRUDER WAS A HUGE MAN, ABOUT SEVEN FEET TALL...
...AND THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL SEVERELY INJURED SEVERAL STUDENTS.

AH... UM...
EXCUSE ME, NEW INFORMATION HAS COME IN, SO WE'LL RETURN TO THE STUDIO.
WE'VE CONFIRMED THE DEATH OF ONE OF THE STUDENTS ATTACKED EARLIER.
ONE STUDENT HAS DIED. THIS BRINGS THE DEATH TOLL SINCE YESTERDAY TO FOUR, INCLUDING THREE SCHOOL CHILDREN.
LET'S GO TO OUR REPORTER TOMIO KOIKE, ON THE HELICOPTER PURSUING THE KILLER.
HELLO, AOKI... KOIKE REPORTING.
YES, CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE?
RIGHT NOW WE'RE FOLLOWING THE POLICE VEHICLES...
...BUT THERE'S ONE STRANGE POINT.
THE KILLER SEEMS TO BE *DELIBERATELY* CHOOSING MAJOR ROADS.
IT'S AS THOUGH IT *WANTS* US TO FOLLOW IT...
IT SEEMS TO BE LEADING US ON.

IT CERTAINLY COULDN'T BE MAKING THE PURSUIT ANY EASIER.
LOOK AT THE MAP--IT'S FOLLOWING PUBLIC BUS ROUTES.
IT DOESN'T *KNOW* ANY OTHER ROADS.
IT ONLY KNOWS THE ROUTES IT USUALLY RIDES ON THE BUS...
WELL, WELL!
HOW *NICE* OF IT TO CHOOSE ROUTES THAT ARE EASY FOR US TO FOLLOW.
...BE-CAUSE IT'S A CHILD.
?? A CHILD ...?

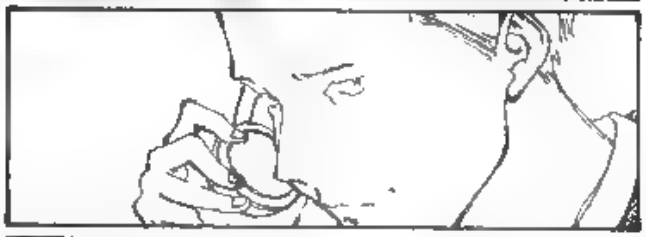
SIR, WHAT--
TAKAYA, IS YOUR HAND ALL RIGHT?
THE POLICE ARE WAITING TO TALK TO YOU.
OKAY, BUT...
...CAN I BORROW THE PHONE FIRST?
AH... OKAY. BETTER GO USE THE TEACHERS' OFFICE.
THOUGH ALL THE PHONES ARE PROBABLY RINGING OFF THE HOOK...
HAVE YOU SEEN SHIINA?
NO. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HER, TOO.
THAT BACK-PACK OF HERS...
SHIINA...
.....

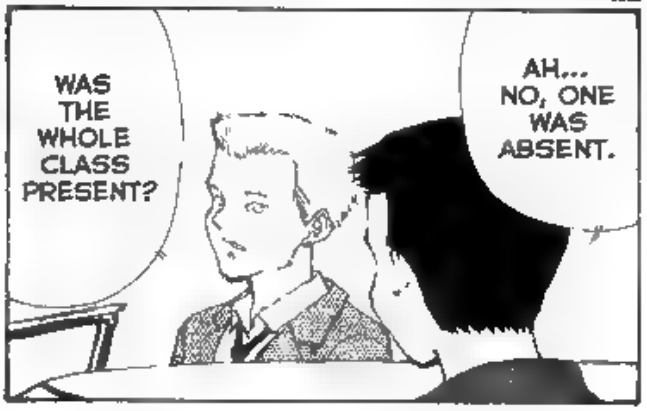



ALL FOUR ARE FROM THE SAME CLASS...

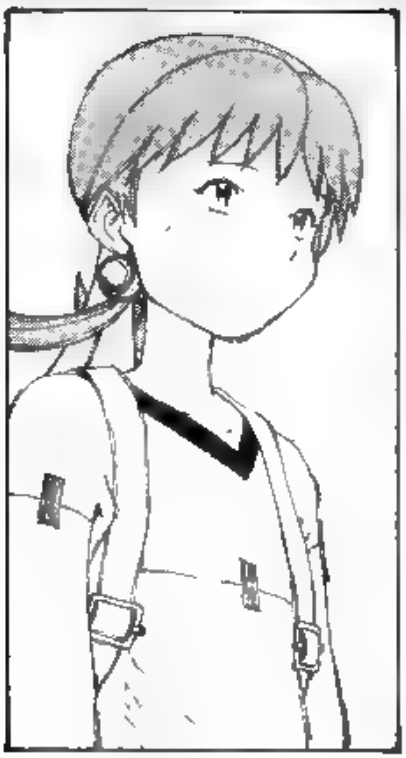
THAT GIRL SAID "HIROKO"...
YOU FIGURE SHE MEANT THIS "HIROKA TAKAMURA" ...?

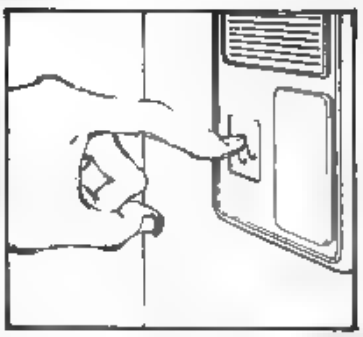
MIHAYA OZAKI, AKI HONDA...
MIYOKO SHITOU, HIROKA TAKA-MURA...

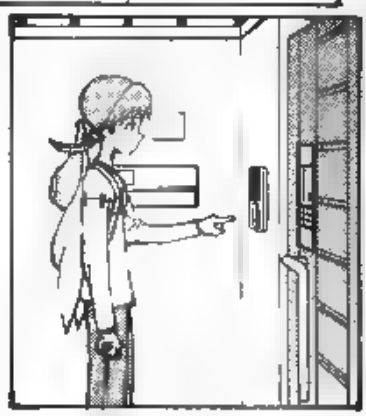


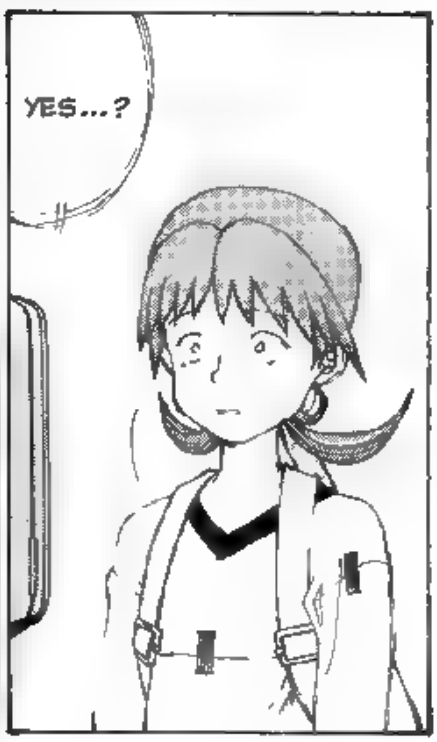

WAS THE WHOLE CLASS PRESENT?
AH... NO, ONE WAS ABSENT.

LET'S SEE...
!!
HIROKO KAIZUKA ...?
GET HER ADDRESS. WE'RE GOING.
BTAM
WHY?
I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU.
OKAY, OKAY.

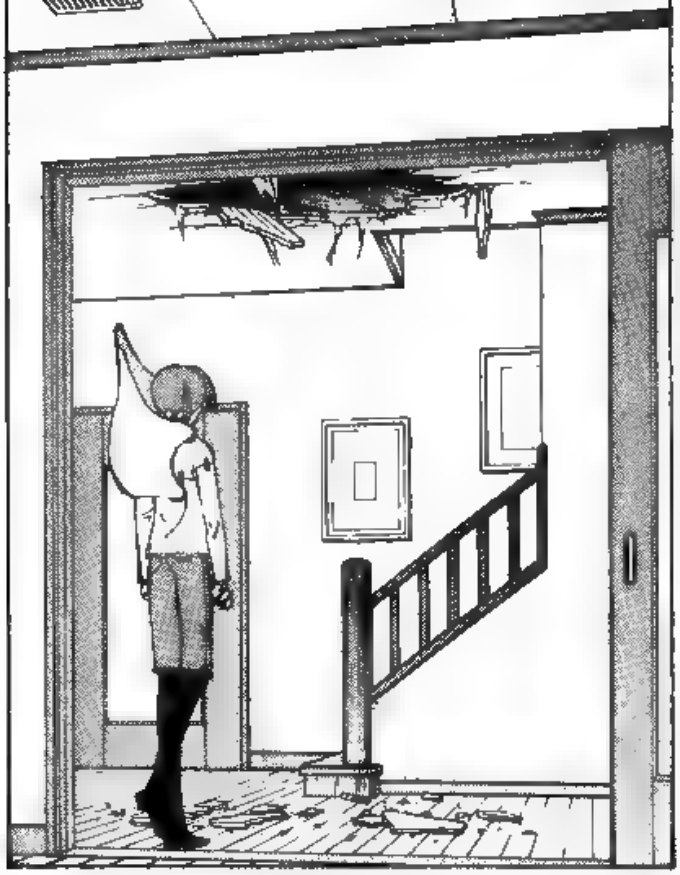






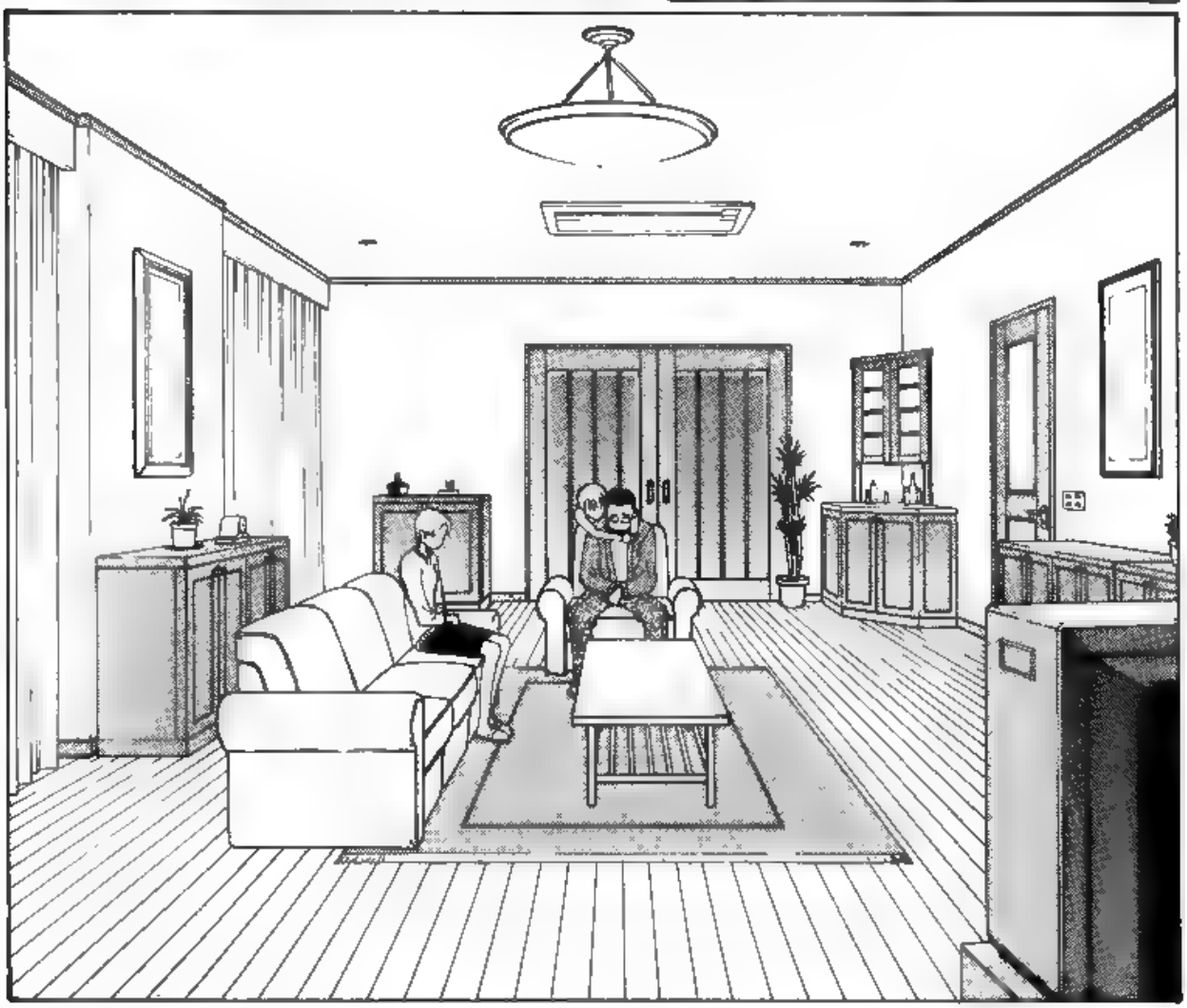

YES...?

AH... UM... THIS IS...
...SHIINA.
....
THE DOOR'S OPEN. COME IN.
HELLO...? HIROKO...?
COLD IN HERE...



HIROKO ...?
WHERE ARE YOU...?

I HEAR A TV...



HIROKO...
....!

I BELIEVED...
...THAT YOU WOULD COME...
...SHIINA.

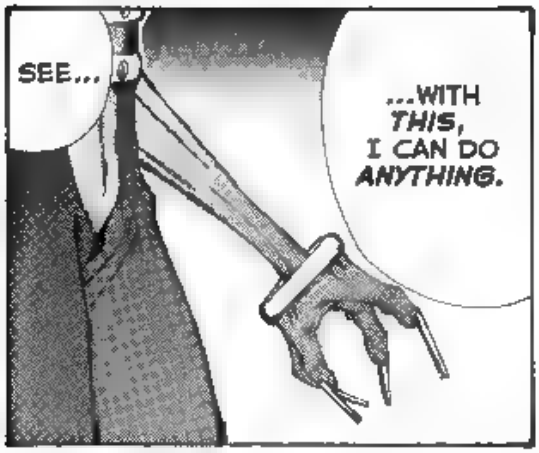
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS SLACKING OFF FOR?
OOPS... HI, BOSS.
UM... WELL, THERE'S THIS CRAZY *INCIDENT* GOING ON AND--
"INCI-DENT" ...?
HAS IT GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH *BUSINESS?*
WELL, UH...
ER... ....
IN THAT CASE, GET BACK TO *WORK.*
OUR CAMERA CREW IS NOW NEARING MOTOKI AIRFIELD NORTHWEST OF THE CITY.
AND *YOU* HERE, TAMAI! I THOUGHT AT LEAST YOU'D--

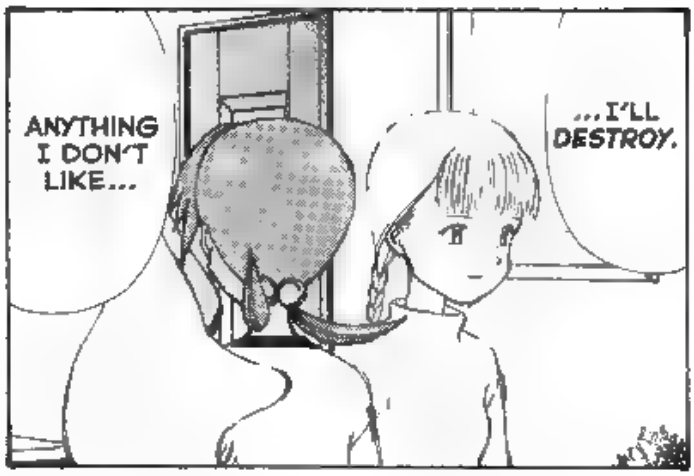
SHH!
DID THEY SAY MOTOKI ...?
DON'T INTER--
EH...?
KTAK
KRAKK

NOW I SEE...
THAT WAS ONE, TOO.
HIROKO, I...
HEH... STUPID ME.
IF I HAD NOTICED THAT SOONER, THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN... DIFFERENT.
TO HAVE HAD A COMPANION SO CLOSE... .....
WHY DID THINGS HAVE TO TURN OUT THIS WAY...?

HIROKO...? COME ON...
...LET'S STOP ALL THIS.
OKAY?
NO. IT'S TOO LATE.
BUT...
BUT CAN'T YOU--
NO.
I...I KILLED PEOPLE.
SIX OF THEM.

IF MIYOKO DIES...
...THEN SEVEN.
I... I...
I WON'T TELL ANYONE, I PROMISE!
SO NO ONE WILL--
NO. TOO LATE.
B-BUT ...!
IT'S NOT JUST THE KILLING.
I'VE DECIDED TO STOP ENDURING, SHIINA.
TO STOP SACRIFICING MYSELF FOR OTHERS, AND STUFF LIKE THAT.

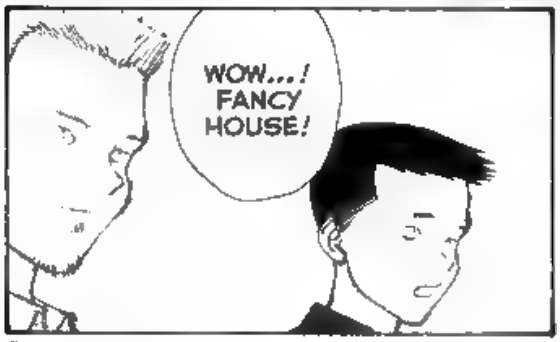

SEE...
...WITH *THIS*, I CAN DO *ANYTHING*.

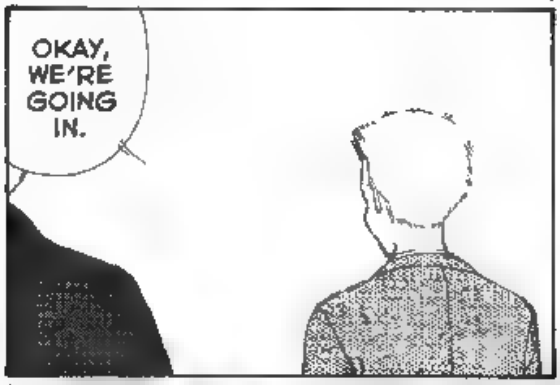

ANYTHING I DON'T LIKE...
...I'LL *DESTROY*.

H-HIROKO ...?

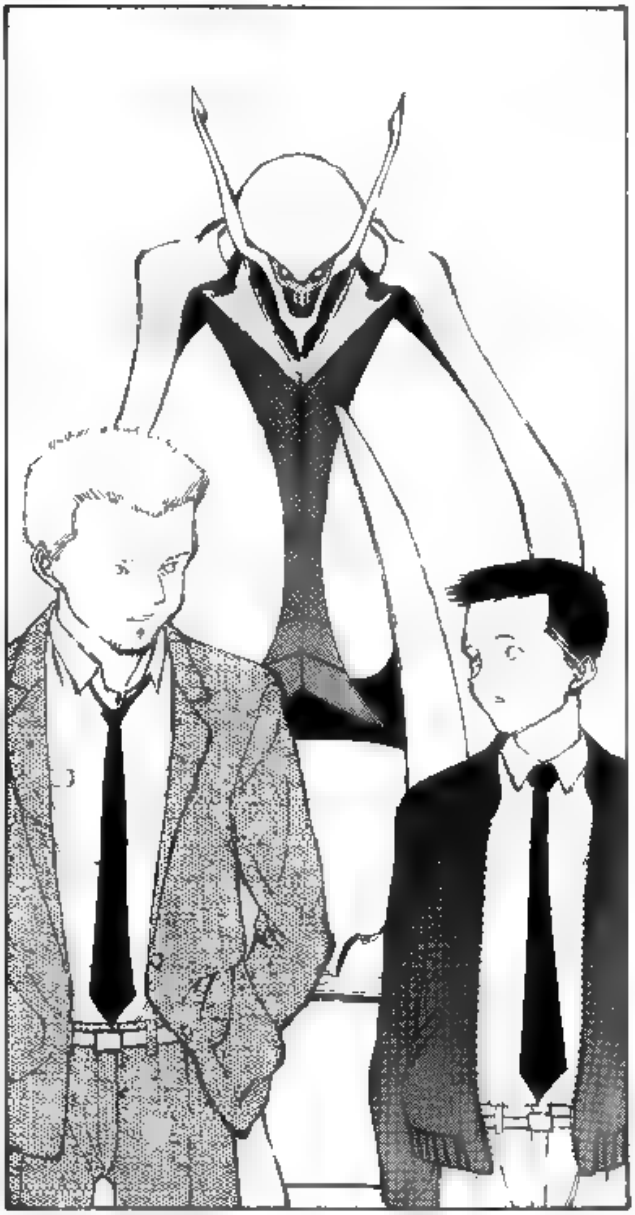
SO...

...I STILL HAVE TO KILL *ONE MORE PERSON*.

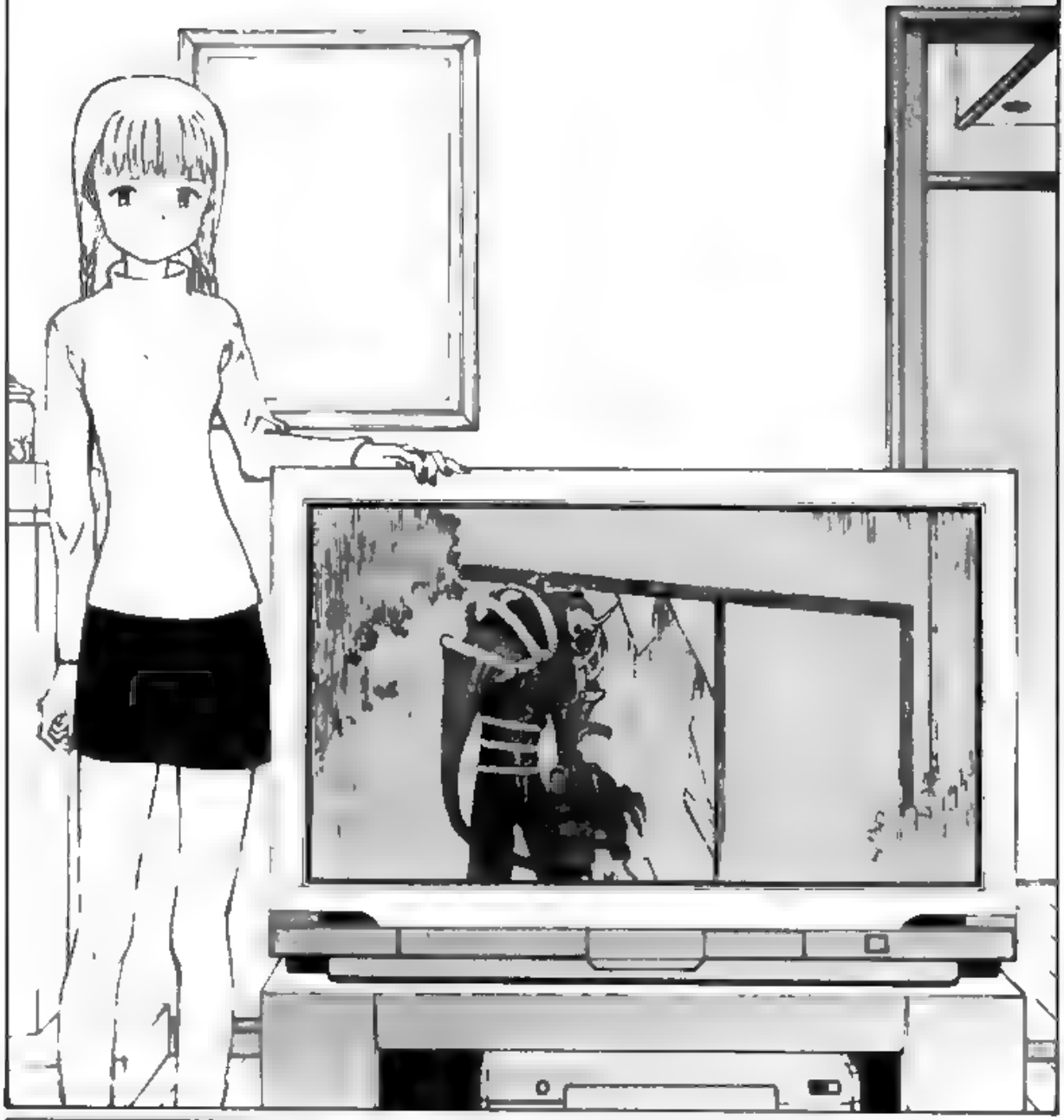

WOW...! FANCY HOUSE!

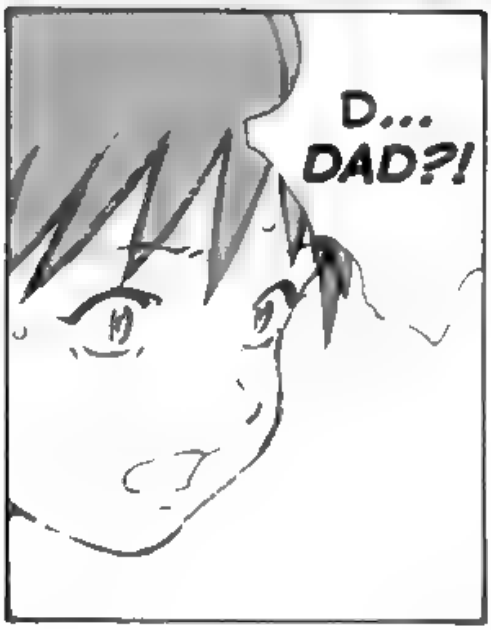

OKAY, WE'RE GOING IN.

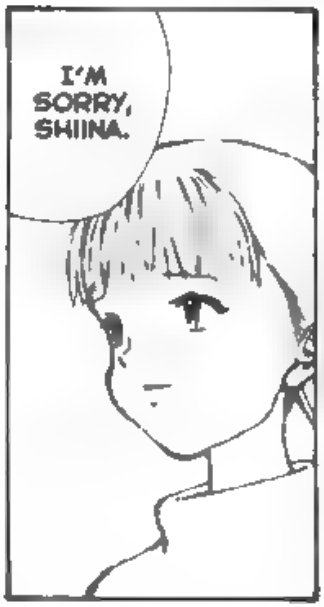
WHDD



WHO...?
THE KILLER HAS TAKEN A HOSTAGE !!
THE KILLER HAS BROKEN INTO THE OFFICES AT MOTOKI AIRFIELD...
...AND TAKEN A HOSTAGE!!
REPEATING THIS BREAKING NEWS...
...THE SUSPECT IN THE SERIAL CHILD MURDERS SINCE YESTERDAY HAS TAKEN A HOSTAGE.
THE LOCATION IS MOTOKI AIRFIELD, NORTHWEST OF THE CITY.
THE HOSTAGE IS BELIEVED TO BE FROM THE AIRPORT STAFF...
OKAY...
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR CREW CAN GET A PICTURE OF THE ALLEGED KILLER AND HIS HOSTAGE!!

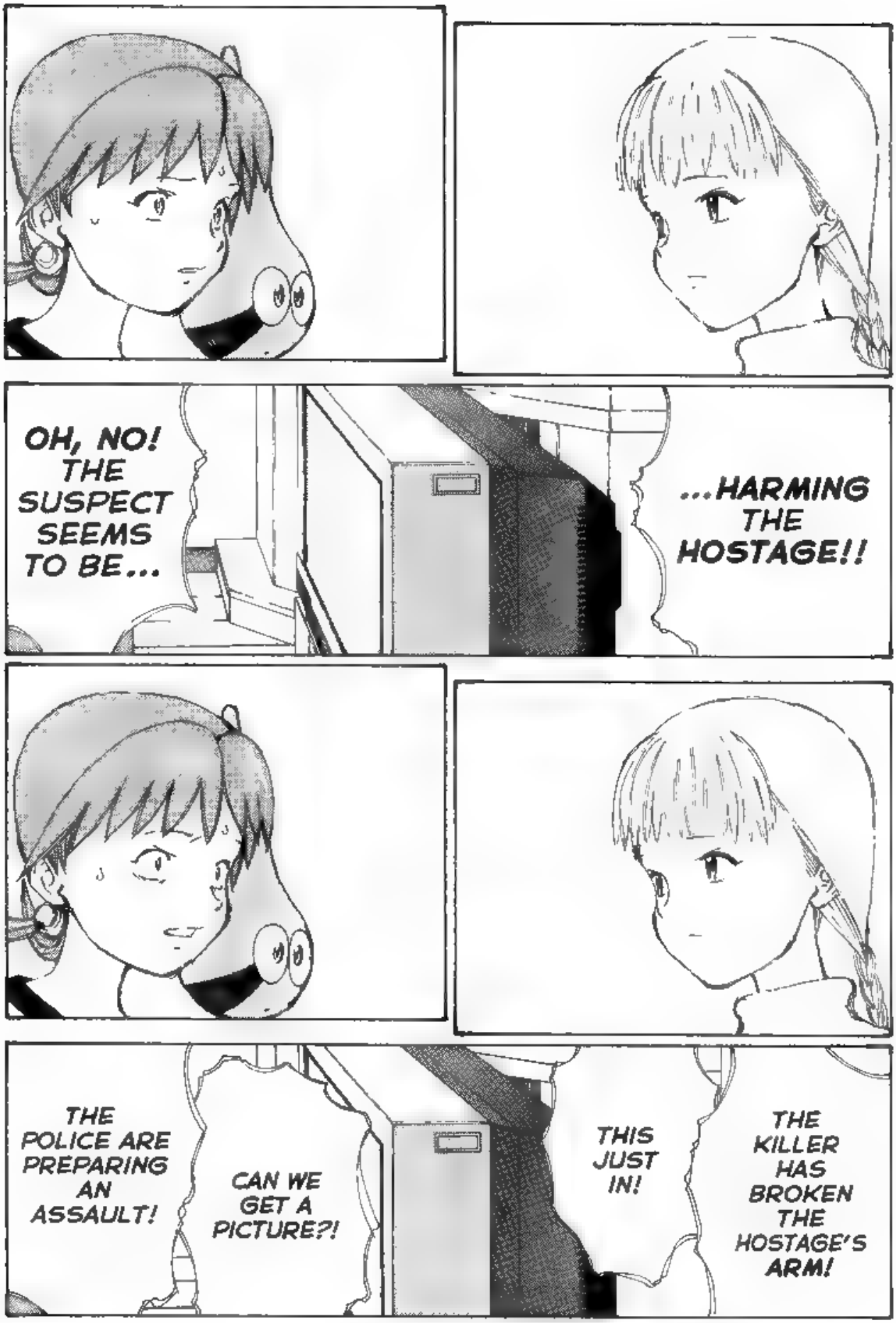



D... DAD?!


I'M SORRY, SHIINA.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO MY DAD!?
I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDER-STAND, SHIINA.

HIROKO...
YOU CAN'T... *REALLY* DO IT, RIGHT?
WHY NOT? IT DOESN'T MATTER *HOW* MANY PEOPLE I KILL NOW, DOES IT?
AND BESIDES, I THINK IT WILL BE FOR *YOUR* GOOD, TOO.
IT'S BETTER FOR YOU THAT YOUR FATHER NOT BE ALIVE, SHIINA.
AND SO... .....

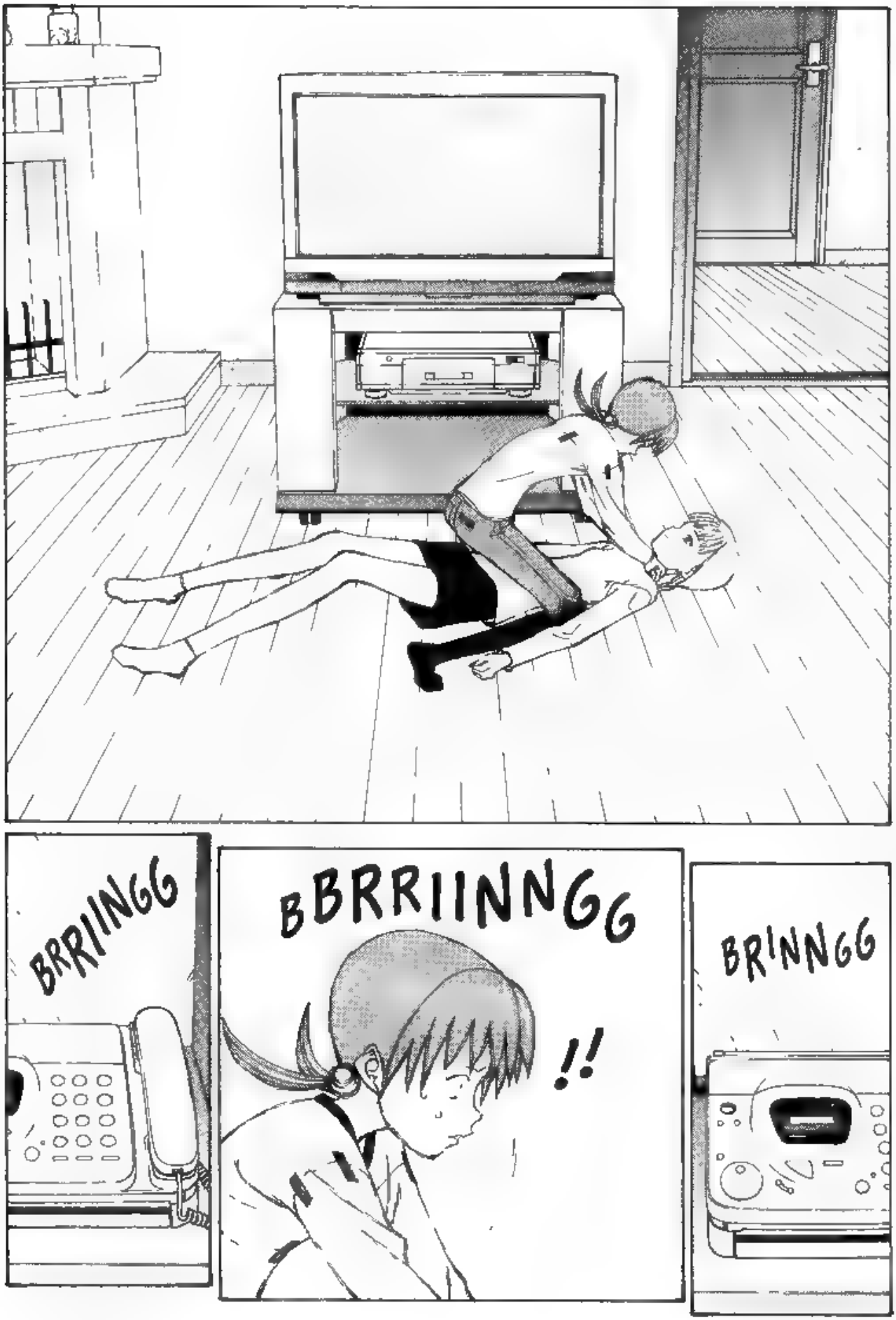

OH, NO! THE SUSPECT SEEMS TO BE...
...HARMING THE HOSTAGE!!
THE POLICE ARE PREPARING AN ASSAULT!
CAN WE GET A PICTURE?!
THIS JUST IN!
THE KILLER HAS BROKEN THE HOSTAGE'S ARM!

HIROKO, STOP!!

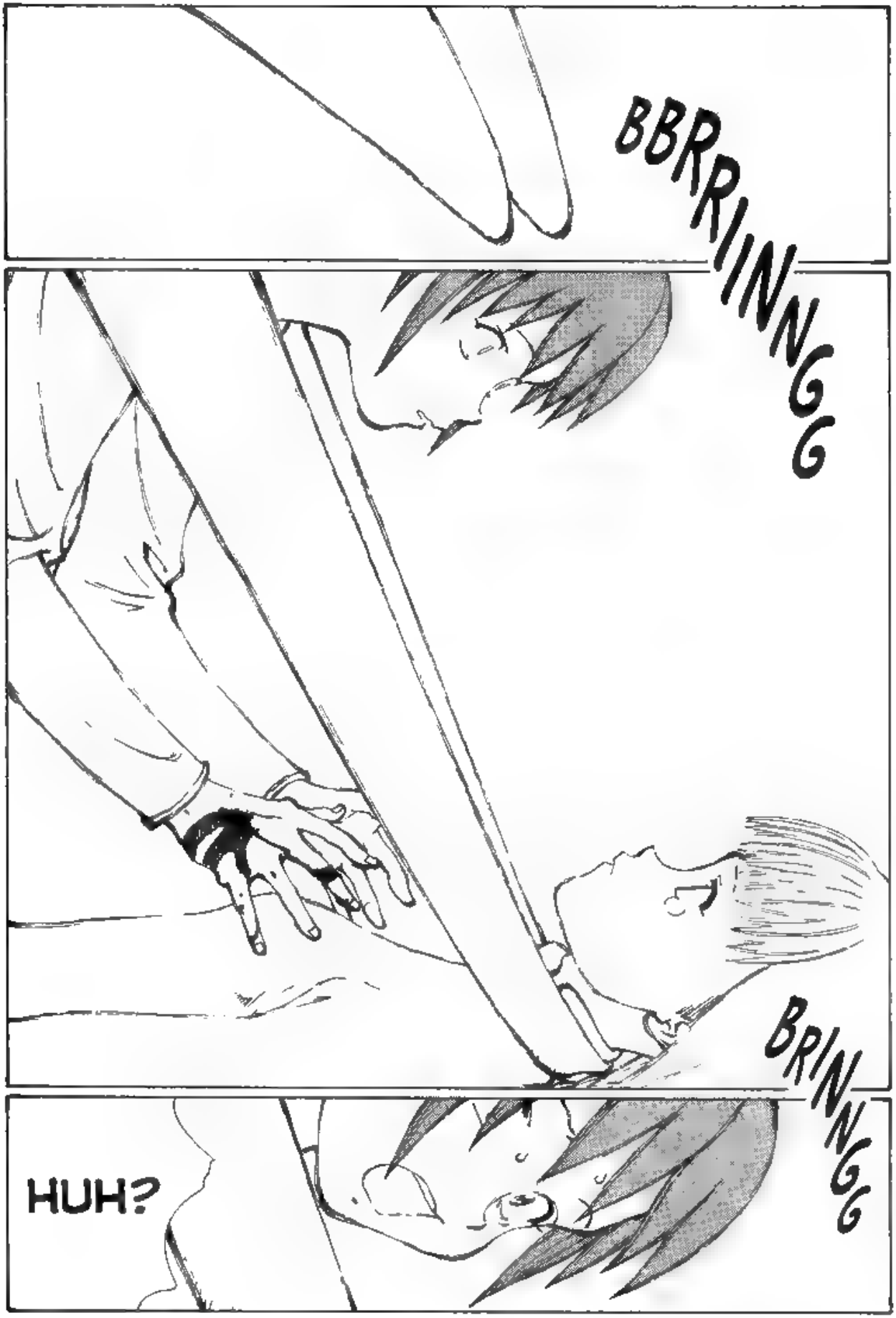
LET'S BECOME FRIENDS, SHIINA.

DAMN YOU, HIROKO !!

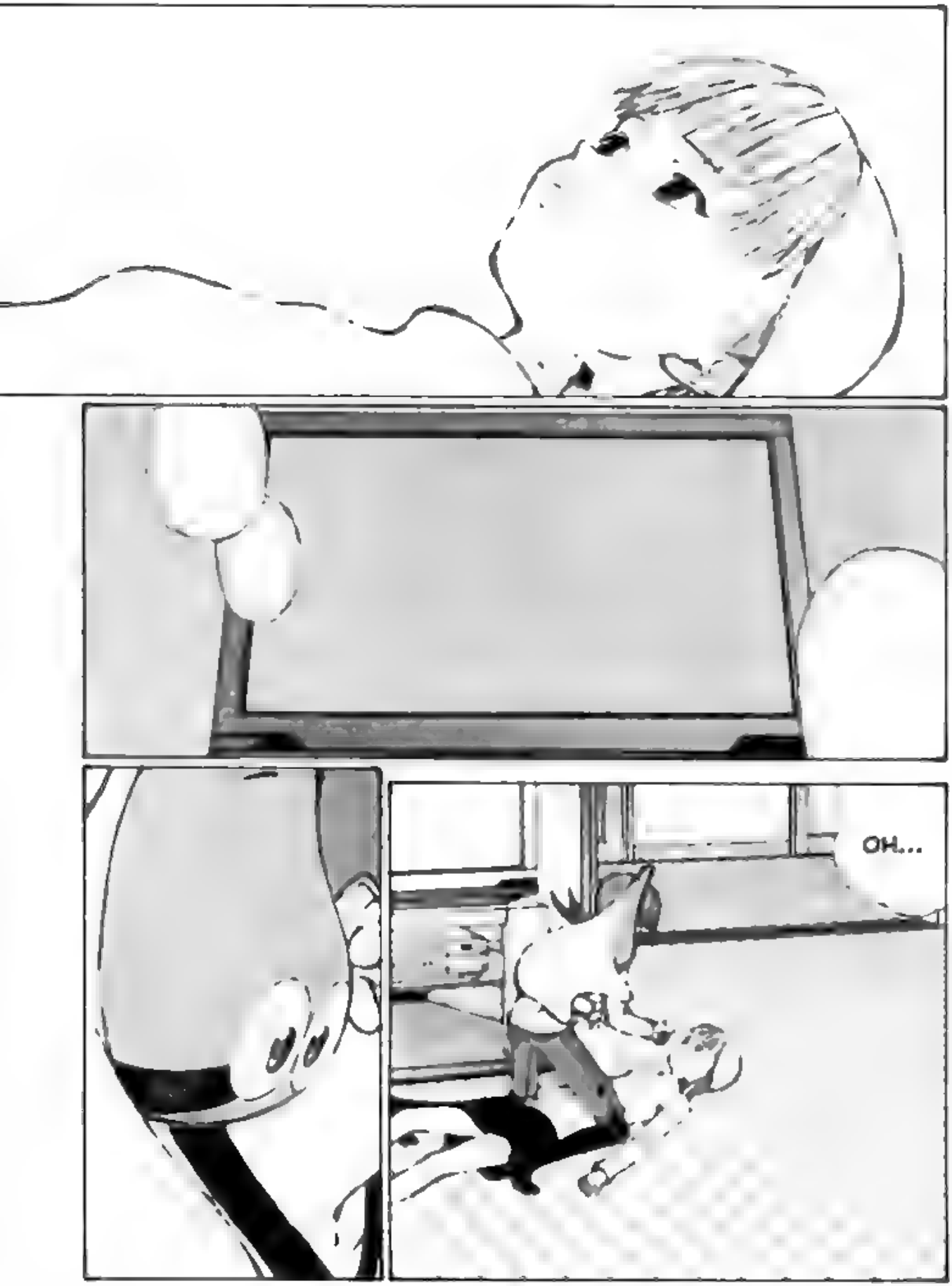
WHDD
CAN... YOU... DO...
...IT ...
...QUICK ENOUGH?


BRRIINGG
BBRRIINNGG
!!
BRINNGG

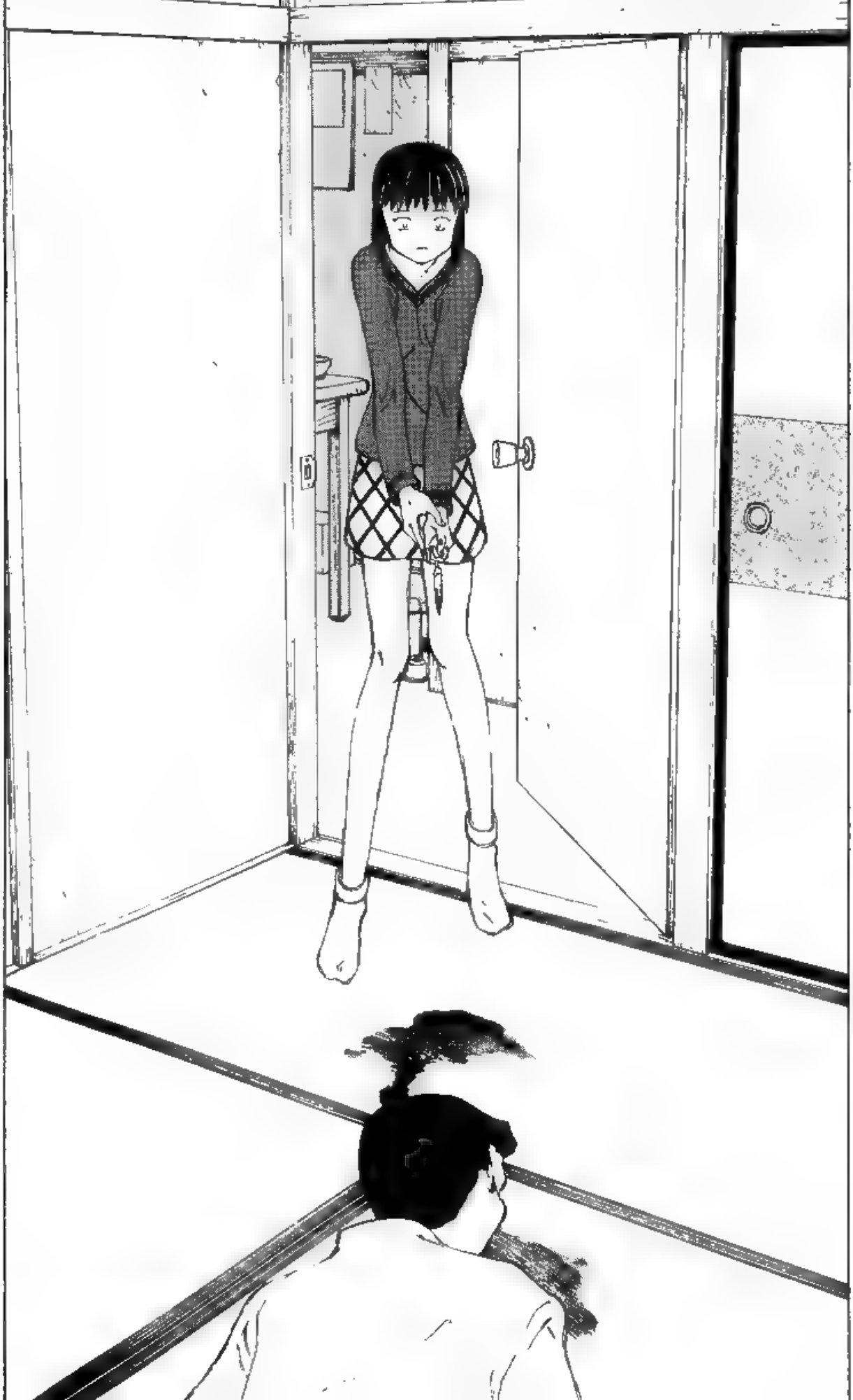
I...
BRINNGG
I CAN'T...
BRRIINN
I CAN'T...
BRRIINNGG
COWARD.
BRINNGG
BRINNGG
SHIINA...
YOU CAN'T SAVE *EVERYBODY* WITH KINDNESS.
BRRIINNG
SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR FATHER.
BRRIINNG
AAHH !!
HIROKO!! NO NO *NO!!*

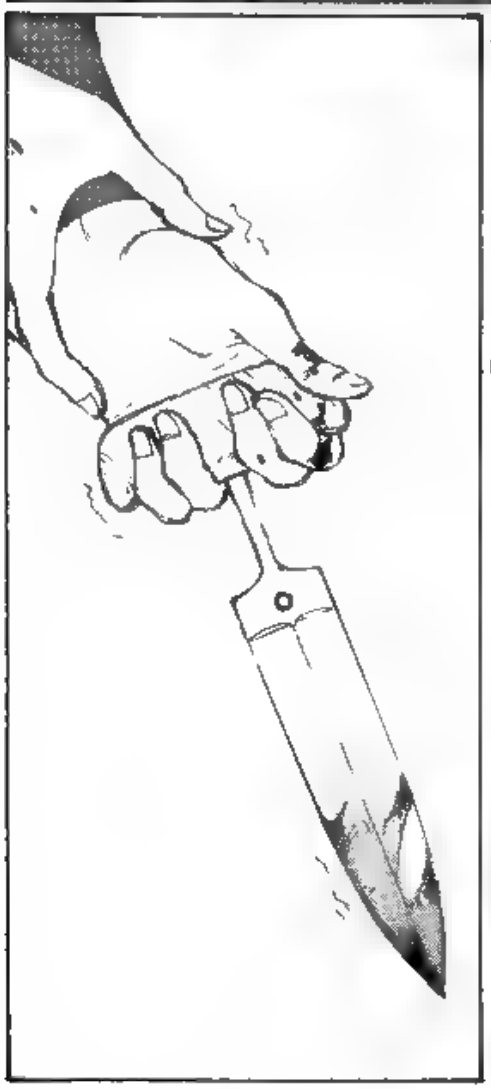

BBRRIINNGG
BRINNGG
HUH?

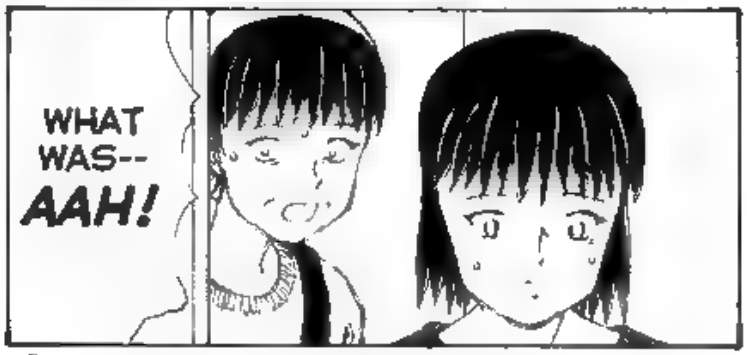
BRRINNGG
HOSHI-MARU ...?!
NO, HOSHI-MARU! STOP !!
Hkk..
BRINNGG
HOSHI-MARU ...!
BRINNGG
HOSHI-MARU ...!!
BRRI!


OH...

H...
HIROKO
...?






WHAT WAS--
AAH!

DEAR?!
DEAR!!

TO BE CONTINUED...!

GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANGA

From a dying planet shall come the children of light...

Bonding with cuddly alien creatures with wondrous powers should have been a dream come true for Tokyo teenagers like Shiina and Akira, but these cute E.T.s can grow into fearsome Shadow Dragons and, when coupled with troubled teens, can become monstrous threats to Mankind. An underground movement of such delinquents tries to recruit the two girls, and the government begins to grow suspicious that Shiina and Akira may well be involved with this dangerous cabal. But back at school, the two girls have more mundane, but no less troubling, issues. Akira and her friend Hiroko become singled out for mean-spirited, schoolyard harassment, and when Dragon Bearers become targets for torment, the tables may turn—with lethal results!

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VICTIM'S EYES, ASSAILANT'S HANDS

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